

JULIA de GRAMONT.

TOM 1

СИМВОЛЫ САДАМУ

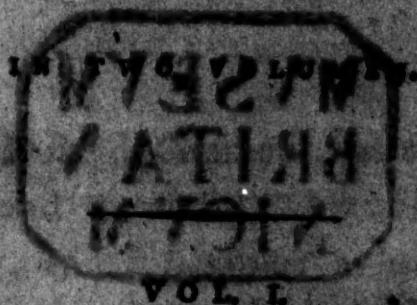
Д. СОФ

# JULIA DE GRAMONT.

xx

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

LADY H-----,



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L O N D O N .

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34

JULIA DE GEMINIS.

БЕЛГОРОДСКАЯ ГИМНАЗИЯ



НО СИОД

СТИХИЯ И СОВЕТЫ

СЛЕДУЮЩИЕ ТАКЖЕ ОЧЕНЬ ДОБРЫЕ АСТ

( 2 )

## JULIA, OR GRANDMOTHER.

TO WHICH IS ADDED  
A HISTORY OF THE LIFE AND MANNERS  
OF JULIA, AND HER DAUGHTER,

The Duke d'Gramont was a rich,  
great, and powerful nobleman;  
haughty, and insatiable; a lovely  
wife, whose alliance had doubled  
his immense property; but left him  
only two daughters; but he was  
determined to remedy the misfor-  
tune of not having a son; by this  
greatest act of injustice, which no  
father could be capable—

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daughter was destined to transmit his name and possessions to posterity by some splendid union, while the younger was devoted to a cloistered life.

Although the fate of Henrietta seemed to promise a milder prospect than that of Julia, yet she was more indebted to her kind stars, than to a parent, for her happiness. Without consulting her choice, or even her inclination, the Duke de Gratzmont concluded with the Count de Senanges a solemn treaty of marriage between their children; and the young lady received the commands of her father to quit, for a few hours, the convent where she had been educated with her sister, to

to be presented to the young Count,  
whom the next week was to come  
to her for ever.

The lovely Henrietta, accustomed  
to obedience, expressed no opposition  
to this peremptory summons; but her young heart felt all the  
horrors, of which a mind is capable,  
that knows its doom inevitable:  
she dreaded nothing so much as an  
union with one, whom she could not  
prefer to all mankind.

The appointed morning came;  
with the most painful emotions she  
embraced her sister; but she re-  
turned in the evening with a coun-  
tenance, which indicated that her  
apprehensions had given place to  
tenderer sentiments. "Ah, my

“ dear Julia !” she exclaimed on entering, “ felicitate your happy Henrietta.—Monsieur de Senanges is amiable; and I no longer consider my approaching union with him as a sacrifice to duty. But, alas ! my sister, can I look forward to a separation from you, without the most poignant sorrow ? Ah ! we will not, must not, part ! I shall exact, as a proof of the regard my new lover has professed, the employment of his interest with my father to obtain permission for your continuance the first twelve-month with me.”—“ Rather,” replied the lovely Julia, “ knowing too well my destiny, why will you not

" not teach me to avoid a world  
 " which I must one day renounce  
 " by the most solemn vows."

The Duke de Gramont, delighted with the thoughts of the additional wealth, which a connexion with the Count would introduce into his family, was resolved to celebrate the nuptials of his daughter, by every demonstration of joy. All his acquaintance received invitations to attend the ceremony; and even the devoted Julia was suffered to accompany her bridal sister, and to exhibit, before an admiring multitude, that enchanting beauty which a father destined to be entombed for ever.

The charming sisters obeyed the commands of the Duke, by adorning themselves upon this day with a brilliancy suitable to the occasion. Their native beauty was heightened by every advantage, which the most splendid decorations could supply; and they appeared, before a gazing throng, like two divinities. Every eye was eager to behold the lovely daughters of Gramont, who till that moment had never publicly been seen beyond the limits of their convent walls.

Monsieur de Senanges, who from the first hour of his introduction had felt the irresistible influence of Henrietta's attractions, led

led his beauteous bride to the altar, with a transported air; where the Duke presented him with that hand, which formed the happiness of his future life.

The timid Julia, with downcast eyes, followed her sister's steps, vainly attempting to elude the attention of the numerous gazers, that surrounded them. Four years younger than Madame de Scnanges, Mademoiselle de Gramont was some months turned of eighteen; and that beauty, which promised her innumerable conquests, shone in its full meridian: education had added every grace to the embellishments of nature; Julia having receiyed, since her dawning infancy, each

sentiment, which could ennoble and correct the heart, from the attentions of a most excellent and accomplished woman, who was placed with these lovely sisters at the convent, and who possessed a heart fraught with every virtue.

Madame de Tourville loved her young pupils with maternal fondness; she had been the bosom friend and companion of the Duchess of Gramont; who, in her last moments, recommended their infant minds to her cultivation; and she discharged the sacred trust, with a strength of attachment, which was rewarded on their part by every mark of filial affection. The young heart of Julia, while

in the convent, submitted to its dull uniformity with apparent resignation, though secretly lamenting a destiny which excluded her for ever from a world she was so well qualified to adorn. If Mademoiselle de Gramont had formed high notions of the allurements of society, the gay and splendid scenes, which now presented themselves to her view, realized every idea; the thoughts of a convent vanished from her mind, and gave place to the brilliant vision before her.

When in the evening the company assembled in a magnificent ball-room, thinking Madame de Tourville, who seldom quitted her, was near, "My God," exclaimed

she,

she, " what a delightful place ! Oh,  
" my dear monitress, the world,  
" which you represented joyleſ as  
" a desert, appears to me a para-  
" dise ! " — " A spot inhabited by  
" an angel like yourself, Madam,"  
replied a voice close behind her,  
" would render a desert heaven ! "  
The timid Julia started ; and,  
blushing at the unguarded words,  
that had escaped her, turned hastily  
around, when she perceived this  
gallantry was addressed to her by  
the young Chevalier de Soiffsons,  
whom Monsieur de Senanges had  
already presented to her as his fa-  
vourite friend. Almost at the same  
instant the Count, advancing,  
heightened her confuſion, by re-  
questing

questing her to honour the Chevalier with her hand in the dance ; she answered not, but by her blushing confusion appeared irresolute ; till Madame de Tourville, approaching ; " The Duke, Ma-  
 " demoiselle," said she, " com-  
 " mands you to accept the partner  
 " whom the Count de Senanges  
 " shall present to you." The young Chevalier, thus authorised, taking the hand which Julia yielded with a graceful dignity, led his fair partner to join the mystic dance.

Fourteen days were spent in a constant succession of diversions ; when now the season of the year, which was the advanced spring, had

had dispersed the noblesse to their respective castles, a day was fixed for the removal of the young Count and Countess de Senanges. Henrietta and Julia, who were endeared to each other by the tenderest affection, saw the period approach, with the agitations of hope and fear; they mutually dreaded a separation; Henrietta could not think of resigning her sister, without the most poignant regret; nor could Julia, unmoved, reflect upon her return to a solitude, now rendered more abhorrent than ever from her inclinations. The Count was too tenderly attached to his charming wife to see her weep, without interesting himself in

in her concern ; and Mademoiselle de Gramont was too amiable not to make Monsieur de Senanges solicitous for her continuance with her sister : he made a personal application to the Duke ; who, judging of his disposition by his own, imagined, that he might venture to intrust the devoted Julia to the care of those, whose interest it was that she should take the veil.—

“ I resign her to your entreaties,” said he—“ but remember, she is  
“ an offering dedicated to heaven.  
“ I rely upon your guarding her  
“ conduct, and preventing the  
“ possibility of her forming any  
“ engagements, incompatible with  
“ those sacred vows, which it is my  
“ fixed

“ fixed determination she should  
“ accomplish: After a few months  
“ spent with the Countess, her  
“ sister, I shall restore her to the  
“ convent, which will secure her  
“ from the temptations of a dan-  
“ gerous world; and her proba-  
“ tionary year must then com-  
“ mence.”

The young Count flew with raptures to his lovely wife, bearing the tidings of un hoped success; and they quitted Paris the next day to enjoy repose in the enchanting retreats of the castle of Senanges, after the fatigues of gaiety and dissipation.

During the nuptial festivity, Mademoiselle de Gramont had beheld herself

herself the little deity, at whose shrine was offered universal homage ; her beauty, her youth, her modesty, her sweetnes, were irresistible attractions : but the admiration of hundreds was unregarded by her ; dissimulation and coquetry were strangers to that innocent bosom, animated only by the delicate sensibility of conscious innocence. The attentions of the amiable and accomplished Augustus de Soissons were the only attentions which she observed, and received with pleasure—a similarity of dispositions and kindred virtues soon imperceptibly united their affections. Tenderly, however, as Monsieur de Soissons loved the fair

fair sister of Henrietta, the secret for some time was divulged only by his eyes ; his lips were closed in timid silence ; he trembled at the idea of hazarding a rejection : too sensible that the happiness or misery of his future life depended on a return of his disinterested passion, he was conscious that he had no pretensions to the daughter of Gramont ; and, being the youngest of three brothers, that he could alone hope to advance his fortune from a success in military honours.

The day before they quitted Paris the Chevalier repaired to the hotel de Senanges, to take his leave of this amiable family : he found his friend engaged in acquainting

the

the sisters with his successful embassy to the Duke. "Come Sons," cried the Count, "partake of our domestic felicity; you must follow us to Senanges, and partake our rural pleasures." The invitation was too flattering to Augustus, to meet with a rejection: his impassioned looks sought the averted eyes of Julia, tenderly anxious to discover her sentiments; and he quitted the hotel, with a promise of rejoining the family shortly at Senanges.

Mademoiselle de Gramont accompanied her sister with a satisfaction, heightened by her fears, that the Duke would not have granted such a proof of his indulgence.

A few months extension of liberty seemed to her an age of delight; and she lost even the ideas of her impending fate, in the scene of present happiness. Hope, that insinuating delusive phantom, the heart's gay flatterer in our spring of life, banished awhile each painful apprehension; and her gentle bosom became the serene repository of smiling pleasure.

The arrival of the Count de Senanges at his castle was soon followed by that of the Chevalier de Soissons: he was received with joy by his beloved friend, with the cordiality of friendship by the Countess, and by her fair sister with delicate reserve, and silent sweetness:

Sweetness : Julia appeared to her enamoured lover with ten thousand new and undiscovered graces : if, amidst the blaze of jewels and parade of ornament, she shone with unrivalled charms ; how conspicuously beamed the native loveliness of her person, in the unadorned simplicity of her country attire ! if the brilliant Mademoiselle de Gramont had attracted Monsieur de Soissons ; how did the rural Julia fascinate his heart !

For some days the timorous Augustus imposed upon his tongue a sacred silence ; which however left no one in ignorance at the castle of an attachment, visible in his every look and action ; and, fatally

for the lovely Julia, her bosom became but too sensible of the merits of the amiable Chevalier.

Madame de Tourville beheld with regret this mutual flame, anticipating the evils it would inevitably cause. She was a thousand times tempted to point out the danger to her young charge, and to offer every argument in her power, to erase, if possible, so unfortunate a prepossession: her prudence and discretion however convinced her, on reflection, that, by informing Julia of the discovery she had made, she could only increase a passion, which the recollection of her fair friend might smother in its birth. Madame de Tourville,

Tourville, satisfied from these considerations, hinted only her apprehensions of the dangerous consequences of this inauspicious love to Madame de Senanges, and urged the strongest reasons for prevailing on the Chevalier to quit an object so irresistibly charming : notwithstanding all his virtues, she was too well assured the hand of Julia could never be obtained from a father so inflexible : the Count's suffered her tenderness for her sister, to silence these objections, and to subdue her fears ; she indulged a hope that the Duke de Gramont might be dissuaded, by the Count's interposition, from his first design, and that their joint entreaties might prevail

prevail upon her father, to unite his daughter to the object of her affections, and to grant her a share in that fortune, too ample for the disinterested spirit of Monsieur and Madame de Senanges.

Madame de Tourville, who better knew the inexorable temper of the haughty Duke, felt all the weakness of these fallacious arguments: she waited in silent sorrow the event of an attachment which promised nothing but the most poignant disappointment; confirming herself in the resolution not to mention the fatal subject to Mademoiselle de Gramont: but, notwithstanding all her caution to prevent any opportunity for the declaration

declaration of the Chevalier's sentiments, the young lovers had exchanged their mutual vows, without reflecting on the unsurmountable obstacle, which opposed their wishes: absorbed only in the tender sympathy of a virtuous passion, they saw not the dangers which surrounded them.

The innocent Julia, when she had betrayed the secrets of her heart to her beloved Adgustus, as a reward due to the avowal of his generous flame; untutored in the wiles of disguise, flew to her sister, and beloved monitress, to whom, with blushing cheek, she told her artless tale. Madame de Tourville wept over her young charge in

speechless sorrow; but Henrietta embracing Julia, assured her, that the Count would use every persuasive argument with the Duke de Gramont, to promote their union. The young lovers, flattered by ideas so alluring, suffered the sweet enchantress Hope to suspend every fear, that threatened obstacles to their mutual happiness: but alas! too soon the visionary scene was changed.

A courier from the Duke de Gramont brought dispatches to the Count, which destroyed each tender expectation love had formed. The contents were to the following effect; that “an alliance with one of the most illustrious families in France

“ France having been proposed to,  
“ him, he had altered his designs,  
“ relative to Julia; who, he could  
“ not doubt, would joyfully ex-  
“ change the retirement of a con-  
“ vent, for the splendid destiny,  
“ which now awaited her: that  
“ though the personage who had  
“ so generously distinguished his  
“ daughter by the offer of his dis-  
“ interested hand, without the con-  
“ sideration of fortune, was past  
“ the meridian of his age; there  
“ was yet nothing in his figure, or  
“ address, which could displease  
“ an unprejudiced eye. He added,  
“ that though he could scarce ad-  
“ mit an idea contrary to the  
“ opinion he had formed of the  
“ duty

" duty and obedience of Julia;  
 " yet, were it possible she could  
 " encourage the least repugnance to  
 " comply with his commands, that  
 " a convent would be her sole alter-  
 " native; to whose everlasting con-  
 " finement he should immediately  
 " consign her, with a parent's  
 " curse upon her rebellious head!""

A mournful silence followed, the conclusion of this fatal letter, which blasted the hopes of the most amiable pair, that love had ever united.

After a pathetic pause, Julia, clasping together her uplifted hands, while her countenance pourtrayed her agonizing mind, thus exclaimed; " Since then I must  
 " become a victim, I will renounce  
 " a world,

" a world, where happiness is not  
 " my lot.— Yes, cruel father !  
 " your daughter, doomed by you  
 " to wretchedness, shall keep as  
 " least her faith inviolate : denied  
 " the privilege of bestowing my  
 " hand, where I have given my  
 " heart ; no other mortal shall re-  
 " ceive my vows ; — to God and  
 " heaven I devote myself from  
 " this hour. Open your masterly  
 " bars, ye hallowed walls ! admit,  
 " for the sad remnant of her  
 " wretched days, a hapless sacrifice  
 " to filial duty." As she pronounced  
 these words she sunk upon the  
 ground ; where she remained some  
 moments oppressed by animated,  
 speechless, woe !

The

The Chevalier, resting on one knee, supported in his arms the beanteous victim, with every mark of unutterable despair imprinted on his features ; while the Countess and Madame de Tourville, incapable of offering consolation, vented their grief in tears : Monsieur de Senanges, though strongly moved, was the first who broke the solemn silence : he had taken time for reflection, and remonstrated to his afflicted audience, that these demonstrations of concern were unavailing, and they should rather invoke the aid of reason to assist in resolving which alternative Mademoiselle de Gramont could choose in a case so absolute. “ Then,” exclaimed  
the

the despairing lover, continuing on  
 his knees, and grasping the hand  
 of the fair statue, " let me conjure  
 " my sweet, my adorable Julia,  
 " by all our promised happiness,  
 " by all those vows we registered  
 " in heaven, to take the only me-  
 " thod fate allows for one ray of  
 " future hope : exclude not from  
 " my sight, by an eternal separa-  
 " tion, that beauteous form : —  
 " The barriers of a convent must  
 " be ever shut to love and me : —  
 " Oh ! rather obey a cruel father."  
 " How, Chevalier ?? interrupted  
 Mademoiselle de Gramont, rising,  
 " is it from you I receive such a  
 " proposal ? Can Augustus become  
 " advocate in a rival's cause, and  
 " urge

“ urge me to transfer to another  
“ that esteem, which I had vowed  
“ to him ?” “ Heaven forbid,”  
replied the Chevalier with an im-  
passioned look,—“ reserve for hap-  
“ pier days that invaluable heart,  
“ to bless the faithful Soissons ;  
“ whose constancy no time shall  
“ shake, and secure by this sole  
“ though dreadful means thy wi-  
“ dowed hand to him.” She  
gazed for a moment with fixed  
astonishment, then exclaimed —  
“ And shall that Julia, whose deli-  
“ cacy of sentiment you have so  
“ partially approved; shall she with  
“ unprecedented dishonour vow at  
“ the sacred altar faith to a hus-  
“ band; while her apostate heart  
“ cherishes

" cherishes the remembrance of a  
 " lover." — " Can then that  
 " heart be less delicate towards thy  
 " God ! " replied the Chevalier;  
 " and while it scruples to deceive  
 " a mortal, will it not recoil with  
 " horror from the idea of offering  
 " impious vows at his shrine, whose  
 " omniscient eye sees all things ?"  
 These words sunk deep into the  
 mind of Julia, already impressed  
 by the soft pleadings of relentless  
 love; she paused, and then pro-  
 ceeded : " Alas ! how wretched is  
 " my fate ; — condemned to de-  
 " ceive my husband, or baffle my  
 " God ! But Chevalier," she con-  
 tinued, assuming an air of dignity,  
 " if vanquished by your argu-  
 ments, I

( 32 )

“ ments, I should so far combat  
“ with the prepossessions of my  
“ heart, as to sacrifice my dearest  
“ affections to my duty ; will you  
“ swear never voluntarily to see  
“ me more ? or, should unavoid-  
“ able chance bring you into my  
“ presence, can you forget the  
“ lover in the friend ? for ah !  
“ Augustus, these tears are the last  
“ testimonies, which honour can  
“ permit, of an attachment un-  
“ sanctified by heaven.—Farewell !  
“ wish not to detain me, lest you  
“ weaken my faint resolves ; suffer  
“ me to withdraw to my apart-  
“ ment, where I shall endeavour  
“ at least to steel my heart against  
“ a tenderness, so fatal to my peace  
and

" and to the obedience I owe a  
 " father. Farewell and remember  
 " her too, amiable Spisella, that if  
 " I yield to such reasons, there  
 " were urged by you, and often  
 " sacrifice I make in losing, during  
 " that of love, yet more than  
 " duty." With these words, tak-  
 ing Madame de Toussyville by the  
 hand, she precipitously left the  
 room. Monsieur de Souffignan not-  
 withstanding her prohibition, would  
 have intercepted the retreat of  
 Mademoiselle de Gramont; but  
 was withheld by the Count; who,  
 with the Countess, urged every  
 persuasion to reconcile his submission  
 to an event inevitable. They  
 flattered him, with the idea, that  
 it would

as the destined husband of their  
Julia was in the decline of life,  
an early widowhood might set her  
hand at liberty. He faintly smiled,  
while his bosom heaves a gentle  
sigh; confessing, that he catched  
at this hated marriage as the last  
refugee of despairing hope, con-  
scious that it could alone secure  
him from the more insupportable  
evil of seeing her, on whom his soul  
doated, torn irrevocably from him  
by those vows, which not even  
time itself had power to cancel. His  
illustrious friends strengthened him  
in these inspiring hopes; but they  
found great difficulty in persuading  
him to relinquish the thoughts of  
another interview with Julia,  
which

which could have raised no quarrel  
between either party, from which he  
intentionally, became productive of the  
keenest gaiety in the heart of his  
nation. To this intent, however,  
did Cheronnesus yield with much  
anxiety; and, leaving his wife's hands  
on his last Julia, in the hands of her  
sister, he threw himself into  
the carriage, and committed him-  
self to the conduct of his friend,  
(who was anxious to accompany  
him to Paris); but, after a hurried  
leave of the fair Octavia, with a  
promise to resume his visit, when  
the too lovely Julia had recovered  
from their enlaged mind, his

While Augustus, previous to  
his departure, was employed in  
writing

writing a sad adieu to the object  
of his dearest wishes, the Count  
sat down to answer the Duke's  
arbitrary letter, with the informa-  
tion of his daughter's immediate  
submission to his commands. He  
then requested an interview with  
Mademoiselle de Gramont, whom  
he tenderly assured, that he would  
accompany the Chevalier, and  
hoped to return in a day or two,  
with the pleasing intelligence of  
his friend's resignation to his fate.

" Yes," replied the beauteous  
mourner, endeavouring in vain to  
suppress her emotions, " you must  
aid him to forget an object, but  
a few short weeks ago totally  
unknown to him.— Fatal ac-  
quaintance !

" acquaintance! yet perhaps he may  
 " find the task less arduous than  
 " his present sentiments may con-  
 " ceive. Time and eternal ob-  
 " sence will efface a passion so ill-  
 " fated, so unavailing! But, alas!—  
 " what horrors now await the  
 " wretched Julia! Heaven per-  
 " mits her not, in solitude, to  
 " breathe her sorrows; even the  
 " sad luxury of grief must be de-  
 " nied to her, whose perjured  
 " tongue is doomed to utter vows  
 " which a repugnant heart can  
 " never seal. Oh, Soissons! what  
 " a sacrifice have you imposed,  
 " and I submitted to."—As she  
 closed this sentence, the power of  
 woe seemed to suppress her plain-

tive voice, and she sunk upon a sofa, overwhelmed by tears. The feeling heart of the Count de Semanges was sensibly affected; and, unable to restrain the force of his emotions, he committed this dear, delicate, and lovely sister, to the soothing attentions of Madame de Tourville; and precipitately pushed out of the apartment. When the carriage drove from the door, the weeping Countess hastened to her Julia: she approached, and folded her to her bosom; the sweet matron raised her humid eyes, and gazing at Henrietta with expressive earnestness, "Ah," exclaimed she, "he  
 "is then gone! Julia must never  
 "see

" See Augustinus ! How happy  
 " is thy desire, and how sublime  
 " farewell happiness — my vigorous  
 " hopes, farewell ! Come, fulfil  
 " duty, unspare my heart, wish the  
 " tyrannic laws, let me be all  
 " the daughter — my father  
 " thou art well revenged : that re-  
 " bel child who dared, without  
 " parental function, to receive the  
 " vows of love, by the sacrifice of  
 " her worldly felicity, shall expiate  
 " her guilt."

From that hour Mademoiselle  
 de Gramont endeavoured to assume  
 an air of resignation ; and, beseech-  
 ing the Count's and Madame de  
 Tourville to name no more before  
 her an object whom honour now

required her to banish as much as possible from her remembrance, she had the heroic resolution to refuse accepting the letter which her sister, in justice to the Chevalier's last request, could not forbear offering ; but her looks, her sighs, confessed the sacrifice she made to that delicacy of sentiment, which eminently distinguished her character.

The following morning, Henrietta received a letter from the Count, informing her, that he found it necessary to retard his return to Senanges, for two days, as he was unwilling to forsake his unfortunate friend, while he remained in Paris : that it was the intention

intention of the Chevalier to comply with the wishes of his father, from whom he found a letter, requesting his presence for a few days. Madame de Sensanges felt a momentary regret; that she must mourn the absence of her lord, at a period when she stood so much in need of his tender consolation; but friendship prevailed over every selfish consideration; and she submitted with that disinterested grace which ever marked her actions.

The day but one preceding the expected return of the Count, the sudden arrival of the Duke de Gramont roused the mourning sisters from their lethargy of sorrow.

*Accustomed  
blow off*

Accustomed to see this awful father, from their earliest infancy, with terror, what were their emotions upon the present occasion ! Henrietta, who, by her obedience in accepting a destined husband, had nothing to fear for herself ; had every thing to dread for a beloved sister, should she find herself unequal to the task of submitting to his commands with resignation. The absence of the Count was now rendered more particularly painful ; and she appeared before her father with agitations, which were visible in her countenance. When she informed him, that Monsieur de Schanges was detained at Paris, the Duke replied, he  
should

should then request that he would join them at the house of his future son-in-law, whether he expected the Countess would attend her sister, who was the next day to be united to her illustrious lord. He commanded her to prepare Julia for this event; adding, that he should remain at Sedanges that night, and accompany them in their short journey, to be present himself at the celebration of a marriage which gave an alliance of such importance to his family. A silent assent stated was the only reply that Madame de Sedanges was capable of making, to a command she well knew was absolute. His personal appearance on this occasion

occasion sufficiently proved the decree unalterable. The Duke kept the name of this boasted unknown a profound secret; and his daughters were totally indifferent to a circumstance of little moment to minds absorbed in real grief. Henrietta dreaded to inform her sister of the short interval of her liberty; but Julia supported the sudden event with a fortitude she little expected. A victim she was destined to be, and a victim she was determined to yield herself to an inexorable father, without presuming to oppose any useless efforts for the delay of a sacrifice from which she was too well convinced, no tears could rescue her.

ROLLINGO

The

The Duke de Gramont had brought with him a profusion of costly ornaments to decorate the lovely offering he dedicated to his ambition. To anon's indignation, wrapped in the insensibility of private sorrow, the blooming Julie suffered herself to be arrayed for sacrifice. Severe dejection sat upon her countenance, and her mild eyes were expressive of the resignation she had imposed upon a heart alive to every sentiment of filial duty.

The Duke's equipage led the way; for some leagues they pursued the road to Paris; but, suddenly changing their direction, they struck into a different route:

fun

All was declining when the carriage entered the gates of a sumptuous residence; where, on alighting, a band of musically-qualified persons, attempting, in notes of sprightly consonance, to animate the soul with joy. They were received by a nobleman of majestic mien, who, advanced in years, appeared with a countenance expressive of benevolence, tenderness, and dignity. To him the Duke presented his beauteous trembling daughter; he saluted her with an air of blended admiration and respect.

Refreshments of various kinds having been offered, some folding doors were thrown open, and disclosed a chapel grandly illuminated,

nised, no whose almanack carried  
knot was taken up till now.

The lovely Julie of Beauval here  
fell through the ~~Adonis~~ <sup>Adonis</sup> ~~lances~~  
and passed round the ~~lances~~ <sup>lances</sup> ~~of~~  
a French who first took her and then  
lighted the Champs <sup>the Champs</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> de  
de Tournelle. As she "considered"  
of the ceremony, her father readily  
failed to follow the history, which  
his kneecling child considered, with  
a frigid indifference; then suddenly  
struck her poor heart, when, raising  
the diamond ~~ring~~ <sup>ring</sup>, tenderly  
afforded her, that ligature which  
constantly ~~survived~~ <sup>survived</sup> of his wife to  
mark the happy and harmonious  
had obtained in ~~years~~ <sup>years</sup>.

Julie won at odds, and for  
CLOTHES

The

The Duke de Gramont withdrawing with his noble son into an adjoining room, their welcome absence permitted the mournful bride to relieve the oppression of her heart by a torrent of tears; her sympathizing sister wept over her Julia, while Madame de Tourville appeared lost in thought, revolving in her mind these strange events. The sweet object of this interesting grief was the first who broke the pathetic silence. Suddenly recollecting herself, she wiped away the traces of her woe; and, with a look of gentlest resignation, “ forbear,” she said, “ my sister, and my friend, to feel for her, who is now herself better.” “ come

" come indifferent to the world. I have been unable to fulfil those duties which I owe to my country and to my family, whilst I have been compelled by the most  
 " imminent circumstances to neglect my  
 " they's choice, without any scruple, and  
 " attempt to discharge my sudden  
 " of sentiments. I have done it with  
 " the duties of a wife & a mother.  
 She stifled the sighing sighs—repulised the tears from her eyes; and, assuming an air of indifference, they  
 at the very first moment of alarm and  
 her load, there laid it gently on her  
 countenance the traces of a shadow;  
 she secretly chid herself in the solitude  
 recesses of her heart: but was soon

The next morning, when breakfast was assembled the family they were in a Gothic temple, upon the banks of a beautiful river which bounded through the extensive gardens of the castle. While they were viewing the sumptuous scene before them, the Lord of this gay abode informed Madame de Semmerges that the Count her husband would join her in a few hours, to partake of the festivities prepared for the celebration of their happy nuptials. "It is this day, Madam," said he, turning to his positive wife, "that I intend to make publickly the distinction you have condescended to confer on me, and to present you so a



those who knew the situation of her heart, spoke a reluctant acquiescence.

At the end of the repast, the ladies retired to decorate, with unwelcome splendor, a victim-bride, who suffered herself to be adorned, without feeling the least interest in the performance. Every art was exhausted to heighten the lustre of her native charms; and she quitted her apartment, to attend the Countess, the most dazzling, the most enchanting figure that imagination could paint.

During the duties of the toilet, her women had more than once given her the title of Madame the Marchioness; but her soul, absorbed

in

gloomy

in sorrow, paid little attention to a circumstance totally indifferent to her: the presence of these omicious attendants prevented the possibility of their charming mistress having an opportunity of unbothering the various emotions of her soul—at length she found herself at liberty from so irksome a constraint, and she was entering upon the subject of her sorrows, when her eyes were attracted by the most interesting object they could behold.

The window at which she stood commanding the flight of steps which led into the hall, the hasty driving of a carriage to the door engaged her attention.—But

what was her situation when she beheld the Chevalier de Soissons spring from it ! She clasped her hands in an agony of distress—

“ Alas ! ” she exclaimed, “ to complete my woes, and to overthrow the firm resolutions of my soul, that dear, perfidious, banished lover, comes to be the cruel witness of a compliance he himself extorted from the wretched Julia ! ”

“ Or rather,” continued she, recollecting herself, and gazing wildly with a look of terror, “ am I not lost for ever ! and is not the unfortunate Augustus the son of Julia’s husband ? ”

The

The appearance of the old Duke  
Tourville was found very much altered  
from what I had seen him before.  
He still maintained, however, his  
old style, though he had been reduced to  
Montfaucon. His son, the Marquis de  
Villequier, was present, and with him  
other royalists who had been exiles,  
Madame de Tencin, who had the  
university of regiments under her adminis-  
tration, and the signs of her former command-  
ing distinction still visible. Her rela-  
tions, though the Queen of the Sun, were  
whole and entire; though she was of  
the Chevaliers du Clos, now disbanded,  
meeting them in their journeys, and  
seizing him by the arm as they went  
forth themselves into a world no longer  
engaging, separating, dividing, & discom-  
forting, but ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> a little world.

The two ladies urged every soothing argument to arm the Marchioness de Soissons to bear this new and unexpected trial, and to support an unavoidable interview with firmness. Monsieur de Senanges, soon requesting admittance into the dressing room of the Countess, attempted to assuage the emotions of her lovely sister—he assured her that his friend had promised to conceal every agitation of his heart, and to pay his respects to the wife of his father, without giving the world suspicion that he was his rival.

" Ah, Count!" cried the Marchioness, dissolving into tears,  
" how shall I support the horrors  
" of

" of this day? — oppressed by ad-  
 " cumulated sorrows, lost, for ever  
 " lost, to happiness, from the fatal  
 " moment when duty urged me  
 " to sacrifice my hand, yet do I  
 " now feel a redoubled weight of  
 " woe. Oh, Soissons! Soissons!  
 " thou hast undone my peace of  
 " mind for ever, in exacting my  
 " compliance with this ill-fated  
 " marriage! Would to heaven,  
 " that, in resigning thee, I had, in  
 " the oblivion of a convent, taken  
 " a sacred refuge!"

She ceased, and sat for some moments, overwhelmed by an agony of grief: but she was soon roused by an embassy from the Marquis, requesting to be honoured with her

her presence in the crowded hall. She started at the summons; and, less inspired by some supernatural power, she wiped the tears that trembled in her eye, and, with a look of sweetest composure, moved to the door: the Marquis met her in the antechamber; and, expressing the admiration with which he beheld her striking beauty, he led her to the expectant circle, where every dazzled eye was fixed on her alone. The Marquis first presented his sons, who bowed, and saluted her hand: when she had received the cold congratulations of the two elder brothers, who surveyed their bridal mother with looks of disappointed avarice, what were her agitations

caution to behold her lover kiss  
on one knee, advancing to his lip  
her trembling hand! — they were  
both incapable of speech, but their  
eyes were eloquent: yet, fortu-  
nately, their mutual confusion was  
unobserved; and the Marchioness  
turned round so precipitately, to  
receive the compliments of the  
company, that the Chevalier had an  
opportunity of quitting the room,  
unperceived by all but Mademoiselle  
de Tourville, who ventured to fol-  
low him for a few moments, to  
regulate his behaviour. She found  
him retired into a portico of orange  
trees, which he was traversing with  
hasty steps; he wrung her hand:  
“ And now, Madam,” said he,

with

with a look of agony, " my ruin  
 " is complete; the only object,  
 " which could render life support-  
 " able, is torn for ever from me.  
 " Ah! and by whom? Oh Julia,  
 " Julia, what a wretch am I be-  
 " come!"

" For heaven's sake," said Ma-  
 dame de Tourville, in a low voice,  
 " moderate these transports; con-  
 sider where you are; reflect,  
 " that, by an imprudent rashness,  
 " you will develope to your father  
 " the fatal secret, and expose the  
 " fame of her you love to the cen-  
 sures of a cruel world!" — " No;  
 " by heaven!" returned the Che-  
 valier, " this guilty wretch shall  
 " die, rather than sully the spotless  
 " honour of her name! — Oh,  
 " Madame

" Madame de Tourville!"—"We  
" shall be suspected," interrupted  
she, with tears in her eyes; "let us  
" separate; but, to prove how  
" sensibly I interest myself in your  
" repose, I will venture to meet  
" you to-morrow morning; at the  
" break of day, in the painted pa-  
" vilion, if you will suffer me to  
" represent to you the necessity of  
" subduing a passion so hopeless,  
" and so destructive to your peace.  
" Adieu till then, Chevalier; let  
" me conjure you to keep the  
" strictest guard this day upon your  
" words, your looks, your actions,  
" remembering, that the honour  
" of the Marchioness is at stake,  
" and depends upon the conduct of  
" the

"the Chevalier de BoisForme." With these words she precipitately withdrew; and the Comte de Sivringes, who had observed their retreat, passed him, as he hastened to join his friend, saying thus I , sloop,

The day was distinguished by every outward mark of joy : the gardens were illuminated in the evening ; and nothing was wanting to complete the magnificence of the entertainment. In the midst of these splendid scenes, two hearts alone were truly wretched : the Marchioness, insensible to pleasure, wished ardently for a period to the rejoicings, upon an event which caused her misery. She studiously, and delicately, avoided

the

the fatal effects of their malignant  
femininity ; while others, like  
at an awful distance, observed  
the contemplated catastrophe,  
several days before it took place.

Toward's evening, the  
perceiving that the hour had arrived,  
Madame de Thénardier, who was seated  
in one of the illuminated alcoves of  
the garden, where a small sofa and a  
table were placed, from whence she  
ear was discernably, ready for  
mony ; the candlesticks were  
spiritu' were so dimly visible, that  
confusing the true scene of the  
wished to retire, the old dame remonstrated,  
to relieve her husband.  
She led the way ; and following her  
Lord Elton (the big, shabby

solitary path, they found themselves at the entrance of a hermitage, which received light only from a single lamp. "This so-  
"lemn gloom," said the sighing  
Marchioness, advancing into the  
cell, and sinking on the matted  
couch, "befits the sadness of a  
"heart like mine! here, unseen,  
"may I indulge my sorrows, and  
"pour into thy faithful participa-  
"ting bosom, some part of that  
"weight of grief which over-  
"whelms my soul! What a day  
"of wretchedness! how fatal a  
"scene for the poor Augustus!  
"Alas! and has the wedded Julia  
"dared to pronounce a name,  
"which rigid duty should banish  
"for

" for ever from her lips ? Oh,  
 " assist me, my friend, to chase from  
 " my bosom a passion, by every ag-  
 " gravated circumstance rendered  
 " more guilty ! Unfortunate, dou-  
 " bly unfortunate, Julia ! to be  
 " just to the father, you must  
 " obliterate the remembrance of  
 " the son ! " — A shower of tears  
 gave relief to her full heart ;  
 Madame de Tourville was silent  
 while they flowed : when the tor-  
 rent began to subside, " Yes, my  
 " beloved child," said she, " I will  
 " endeavour, by every art in sooth-  
 " ing friendship's power, to heal  
 " the sorrows of your wounded  
 " heart ; and, by degrees, to wean  
 " it from an attachment fatal to

“ every hope of happiness ; and  
“ rest assured, that the Chevalier  
“ will set you an example worthy  
“ imitation : your honour, your  
“ repose, are dear to him ; he re-  
“ veres his amiable father ; — to-  
“ morrow, at the dawn of day, I  
“ have appointed an interview,  
“ when I flatter myself you will  
“ authorise me to insist” — “ Ah,  
“ my dearest Tourville,” inter-  
rupted the Marchioness, “ let not  
“ the Chevalier suppose me privy  
“ to a meeting, that love might  
“ interpret as an encouragement  
“ to sentiments, which neither of  
“ us can still retain, without a  
“ crime. My conscience is now  
“ responsible to a husband for  
“ every

"every idea which rebels against  
 "my duty; Ah, my friend, leave  
 "the argument unground to prevail  
 "upon him so give the castle; let  
 "him remove far from her who  
 "is lost to him for ever, a fatal  
 "object which, in recalling scenes  
 "of visionary happiness, can only  
 "aggravate her present misery.  
 "These are my sentiments; and  
 "I conjure you by your friendship,  
 "no more to name a subject which  
 "the nice sense of honour disal-  
 "lows."

She arose, silently followed by  
 Madame de Tourville, who glo-  
 ried in the heart she had early  
 trained to virtue. In rejoining the  
 company, they found the Missus

anxiously seeking his fair Marchioness : upon his tenderly inquiring where she had so long concealed herself, with an assumed smile, she told him that a winding path had prompted her curiosity, and led her to a hermitage, where she hoped the emblems of mortality, which she had seen, had taught her an useful lesson. During the course of the evening, it had been concerted, between the Count and Countess de Senanges, that the separation of Augustus, from the fatal object of his love, was a step which prudence rendered absolutely necessary. Monsieur de Senanges resolved, therefore, to plead the urgency of business, as an excuse for quitting the

the Marquis the following day ; hoping to prevail upon his unhappy friend to accompany his return. They were sensible that, though the Marchioness would tenderly regret the departure of her sister, she would not only acquiesce in, but promote, a step which propriety dictated, and her delicacy must approve. They agreed that Madame de Tourville should remain behind ; as her participating friendship might, in some measure, alleviate the sorrows of their Julia.

The next morning, punctual to their appointment, Madame de Tourville and the Chevalier met in the pavilion ; it was visible, in the pale looks of the latter, that he had

had passed a sleepless night! Mademoiselle de Tourville, observing it, took occasion to entreat him to exert his reason in subduing so ill-fated, so hopeless, a passion. He shook his head; "Alas!" said he, "is it possible to eradicate a sentiment interwoven with my very existence?" — "Shall the Marchioness," replied she, "set an example so admirable, and will not the Chevalier de Soissons imitate it? You were yesterday yourself a witness to the dignity, the greatness, of her conduct, in perhaps the most trying situation, which a heart of sensibility could experience!" "Yes," interrupted Augustus; "I observed

" observed it all, and in her be-  
 " held all that is lovely, all that  
 " is excellent, in woman! I saw  
 " the virtuous conflict of her soul;  
 " and her angelic face, averted  
 " from me, seemed to glow with  
 " more than mortal beauty; un-  
 " seen, I followed her alluring  
 " steps, and, in a remote corner of  
 " the hermitage, heard the soft ac-  
 " cents of her plaintive voice,  
 " which, by heaven inspired, ut-  
 " tered the dictates of a spotless  
 " heart. I was fascinated; and,  
 " while she fixed my doom of  
 " banishment, adored the virtue  
 " that pronounced my death! for  
 " oh! I cannot exist without be-  
 " holding her." — " Will you,

"then," said Madame de Tourville, "while you confess the justice  
"of the sentence, hesitate to com-  
"ply with it?"—"No, Madam,"  
replied the Chevalier wildly, "the  
Marchioness shall be obeyed;  
the commands of the mother  
shall decide the fate of the de-  
voted son! we hover on the  
brink of an eternal separation,—  
the awful hour approaches!"  
He clasped his hands with fervour,  
and, with a countenance of strong  
despair, stood motionless. Madame  
de Tourville, whose sympathetic  
tenderness of soul was sensibly  
affected, became now visibly  
alarmed. "For heaven's sake,"  
cried she, "speak not, look not,

"sq

" so terribly ! Will you, by the  
 " perpetration of a deed fatal to  
 " yourself, plunge a dagger in the  
 " bosom of her you love ? will you  
 " kill your Julia ?" " My Julia !" interrupted he with emotion, " ah,  
 " no ! my father's Julia. Alas !  
 " my happy father !" His voice  
 faltered, and he melted into tears.  
 " Degenerate Augustus," continued he, " and canst thou weep a  
 " parent's happiness? — nay, can I  
 " deem him blest, who has the  
 " hand without the heart of Julia ?  
 " or can that man be absolutely  
 " wretched, who is in possession of  
 " so invaluable a treasure ?" His  
 features brightened into a momentary ray of pleasure ; but soon the  
mournful

mourful smile was banished by  
 a sigh ; then, turning to Madame  
 de Tourville, "Dread nothing,"  
 said he, "from my despair, that  
 can affect the peace or honour  
 of the Marchioness : tell her, the  
 unfortunate Augustus is already  
 self exiled. This day I shall ac-  
 company the return of the Count  
 and Countess to Senanges ; there  
 may I indulge my sorrows ;  
 there, guiltless, may I breathe  
 my hopeless sighs, and, in the  
 gloom of those embowering  
 shades, trace the dear footsteps,  
 of my angel Julia."

Madame de Tourville applauded  
 the intended departure of the Che-  
 valier ; and, having soothed him  
 with

with her friendly arguments, she satisfied herself that she left him more composed, happy, and quiet. When the Marchioness received intelligence of the proposed immediate departure of the Count and Countess, her first sensations were those of grief; she could not but tenderly regret the society of so beloved a sister; yet a conscious interest in the sorrows of Augustus, which might be softened by the sympathy of friendship, reconciled her to a step, which, but for that consideration, would have rendered her inconsolable.

This was a day of general departure: the company, who had remained till the morning at the castle,

castle, met now to separate. The Duke de Gramont was among the first who quitted the castle. He bade adieu to his daughters with that cold indifference which marked his parental character: uninterested in their happiness, the only satisfaction his sordid mind was capable of receiving derived its source from the success of his ambitious views. The remaining guests were in a short time dispersed, and the dreaded moment now arrived which was to separate those hearts so tenderly attached. The parting farewell of the lovely sisters was affecting. Henrietta, whose soul bled for her Julia, entreated her to take comfort, and promised to re-

peat

peat her visit at the castle in a few weeks. The Chevalier, offering his hand to lead Madame de Senanges to her carriage, turned to the weeping Marchioness; and made her a respectful bow, with a look expressive of the strongest sensibility and anguish:—grief denied him utterance, and he hastened into the carriage to conceal the agitation of his bursting heart.

Julia, who, notwithstanding all her efforts, had yet made little progress towards the extinction of her fatal passion, felt the departure of the Chevalier with all the force of sorrow; and the tears, which followed in quick succession down her lovely cheek, while they seemed

to lament a history, in reality flowed  
for the most amiable, most unfor-  
tunate, of lovers.

The Marquis in the tenderest  
manner attempted to assuage her  
affliction; he regretted the necessity  
which called away the Countess,  
and entreated his charming wife to  
press the early return of a sister so  
dear to her.

The Marchioness de Soissons,  
young as she was, yet was happily  
endowed with a strength of reason  
and resolution above her years.  
No sooner had she time for retire-  
ment and recollection, than she  
calmly represented to herself the  
necessity she was under to restrain  
the sensibility of her feelings. She  
considered

considered that the solicitude which might probably succeed the company that had hitherto engaged her lord's attention, would leave him at liberty to remove those agitations of soul, which might lead him from suspicion to the discovery of her fatal partiality for his son; and guiltless as it was, might cause no eternal breach in his parental affection. She resolved to pay a sacred regard to the marriage vow, and by the most winning attention and respect to merit the tenderness he professed for her. Mistress of each elegant accomplishment, she determined, by a variety of employments, to banish as much as possible from her heart every idea inconsistent

fitient with her duty. A taste for books she had early imbibed; in music she very eminently excelled; in painting few were her superiors; these were resources to a mind situated like that of Julia; by such avocations she hoped to dissipate, in some measure, the influence of grief, and to conceal, under the appearance of content, the secret emotions of a wounded heart. From the soothing friendship of her dear friend Tourville she expected much consolation. But, above all, she placed her greatest confidence in the assisting influence of that power Supreme, whom she had chosen, from the first rays of dawning reason, to be her surest guide through

through the intricate paths of life.

In the evening of the day that had dispersed the gay assembly, the Marquis, observing a tender melancholy on the features of his Julia, proposed, with a view to amuse her thoughts, to give her a more accurate survey of his magnificent mansion, than he had yet found an opportunity of doing. She smiled assent, and followed her conductor. After having traversed several noble apartments, superbly fitted up with the finest tapestry, and most finished paintings: "And now," said the Marquis, unlocking a door, imperceptible to the eye, "I am going to raze your

VOL. I. G "curiosity,

"curiosity, and at the same to satisfy it. Enter into the closet, where you and your friend will find yourselves greatly interested." The descent of a few steps led them into a small but elegant room, where the first object that claimed their attention was a portrait of the late Duchess de Gramont: the ladies gazed with mutual pleasure: "Well might you imagine," said Madame de Soissons, "that the picture of my amiable mother would yield me the truest satisfaction: and I owe my father a sensible obligation for a gift more precious to his daughter than any other he could bestow." "Ah, Madam!"

returned the Marquis, "it is not  
 " to a parent, but to a lover and a  
 " husband, that you owe the pos-  
 " session of that beautiful original,  
 " which so perfectly resembles  
 " yourself. The daughter is, what  
 " the enchanting mother was.  
 " You inherit every charm and  
 " virtue which once bloomed in  
 " her! — Permit me, my lovely  
 " Julia, to lay open the recesses of  
 " a heart, which, till its propitious  
 " suit to you, silently regretted a  
 " loss you only could restore—let  
 " me reveal the mystery of a mar-  
 " riage, which must, to your deli-  
 " cacy, have appeared so sudden  
 " and abrupt." Varied emotions,  
 during this address, affected the

bosom of the Marchioness : tenderness, surprise, and expectation, alternately oppressed her ; but she was silent : —— she suffered the Marquis to seat her on a sofa, to place himself by her, and to pursue the following narrative without interruption.

“ Returning at the age of three-and-twenty from a tour through Europe, I was welcomed by my father with open arms. He soon informed me that he had, during my absence, negotiated for me an affair of no less importance than that of marriage, with a young heiress, of immense fortune, and not deficient in personal attractions. As my time

“ and

" and attention, in the course of  
 " my travels, had been too much  
 " engrossed to suffer my heart to  
 " receive any lasting impressions  
 " from the power of beauty. I did  
 " not contradict my father's hopes,  
 " whose generous indulgence to-  
 " wards his son merited every mark  
 " of gratitude and duty. On my  
 " introduction to Mademoiselle de  
 " Navarre, though I felt no emo-  
 " tions at the first view of her per-  
 " son, yet, as I could not but ac-  
 " knowledge it to be handsome,  
 " with inclinations unprepossessed,  
 " I found no absolute repugnance  
 " to fulfil an engagement to which  
 " I had been prepared to give a  
 " passive assent. Alas! too soon I

“ became sensible that my devoted  
“ heart was formed for stronger sen-  
“ timents than cold approbation. I  
“ was attending my future bride at  
“ an opera, when Mademoiselle de  
“ Valiere appeared in an opposite  
“ box, with all the dazzling lustre  
“ of that enchanting beauty which  
“ now shines in you! The insipid,  
“ charms of Mademoiselle de Na-  
“ varre were totally neglected by  
“ me. My eyes, and every faculty  
“ of my soul, were lost in contem-  
“ plating those attractions, which  
“ claimed the attention of each be-  
“ holder. The Duke de Gramont  
“ was the envied object admitted  
“ to a seat behind this lovely para-  
“ gon. He divided his conversa-  
“ tion

"tion between the Baroness her  
 "mother, and herself; she ap-  
 "peared to hear him with indif-  
 "ference, to answer him with re-  
 "serve, and to be at the same time  
 "insensible of the universal admi-  
 "ration she excited. Having been  
 "acquainted with Madame de Va-  
 "liere before I quitted France,  
 "though I had never seen her  
 "charming daughter till that fatal  
 "night, I had a sufficient claim to  
 "introduce myself; and, forgetting  
 "the attention due to Mademoiselle  
 "de Navarre, I abruptly quitted  
 "the box, and hastened to pay my  
 "respects to the Baroness de Va-  
 "liere. She welcomed, with polite-  
 "ness, my return to France; and

G 4      " presented

"presented me by name to her  
"beautious daughter.—Perhaps  
"my sentiments were intelligent  
"in my eyes: she received my  
"compliments with mingled digni-  
"tity and sweetness, while a cap-  
"tivating blush heightened the  
"carnation of her glowing cheek.  
"The happy Gramont kept his  
"envied seat, bowing his head with  
"an air of triumph. I was ab-  
"sorbed in the silent admiration  
"of this lovely creature; when the  
"Baroness thought proper to re-  
"mind me of a far less pleasing  
"object, by congratulating me  
"upon my approaching marriage.  
"I replied only with an involun-  
"tary sigh; and, taking the cruel  
"hint,

" him; returned to Mademoiselle  
 " de Navasre, who maliciously in-  
 " formed me, while the conscious  
 " envy of inferior beauty flushed  
 " from her eye, that the bright fire,  
 " to whom I had been offering my  
 " adoration, would shortly disap-  
 " pear, as, during the absence of  
 " the Duke de Gramont, to whom  
 " she was solemnly contracted; she  
 " intended to conceal her dan-  
 " gerous charms within the sacred  
 " barriers of a convent; it being  
 " determined by the Baronne, her  
 " mother, that the marriage should  
 " not take place till the Duke had  
 " finished his campaigns, about  
 " which period Mademoiselle de  
 " Valiere would attain her nine-  
 " ~~noting~~  
 " teenth

“ teenth year. This intelligence,  
“ and the recollection of my own  
“ impending chains, struck my heart  
“ with a pang of anguish which I  
“ had never till that hour experi-  
“ enced. But my honour was en-  
“ gaged beyond retraction, and I  
“ felt a secret consolation, when I  
“ reflected, that my engagements  
“ with Margaret de Navarre were  
“ not the only obstacles which op-  
“ posed my inclinations for the ir-  
“ resistible Henrietta de Valiere;  
“ since, had I been free myself to  
“ make the offer of my hand, the  
“ Duke’s indisputable pretensions  
“ would have been sufficient to  
“ render every hope delusive. The  
“ next evening, however, led by  
“ infatuation,

“ infatuation, I attended the assembly of Madame de Valiere ;  
“ where, while the Duke, who,  
“ in such enviable circumstances,  
“ could neglect so lovely a woman  
“ for piquet, was totally engrossed  
“ by his favourite game, I had the  
“ charming dangerous opportunity  
“ of discovering new enchantments  
“ in the conversation of Mademoiselle de Valiere : her voice was  
“ harmony — her figure perfect  
“ beauty — her every motion grace.  
“ She received my compliments  
“ with that sweet timidity, that  
“ unaffected dignity, which spoke  
“ her inborn innocence of soul. I  
“ presumed not to be too particular  
“ in my attentions to this bewitching

“ ing object; but, though I did  
“ not suffer myself to continue at  
“ her side the whole evening, yet  
“ my fascinated eyes ceased not to  
“ gaze upon her. I observed her  
“ deportment, easy and winning  
“ to all who addressed her; but  
“ took particular notice that, when  
“ her lover approached, her ani-  
“ mated countenance varied; she  
“ turned pale, then a roseate blush,  
“ in quick succession, tinged her  
“ transparent skin. Methought I  
“ could discern in her expressive  
“ eye, that, though her hand was  
“ plighted to the Duke, her heart  
“ had no share in the engagement.  
“ With tender regret I anticipated  
“ her woes and my own, in our  
“ impending

" impending fate, which doomed  
 " us each to utter joyless lumpish,  
 " vows, that would ensure our  
 " inevitable misery ! "

" I was weak enough, inconsi-  
 " derate of danger, to sime with  
 " avidity every opportunity of be-  
 " ing in the presence of this fatal  
 " charmer : each interview contri-  
 " buted to fix deeper in my bosom  
 " an iradicable passion ; while,  
 " conscious of our separate engage-  
 " ments, I could not banish myself  
 " with the most distant ray of  
 " hope.

" Thus did I pursue the alluring  
 " path that led to ruin, till the  
 " sudden retreat of Mademoiselle  
 " de Valiere to the destined con-

" vent

“ vent roused me from my trance  
“ of passion; and my father urging  
“ me to fulfil my contract with  
“ Margaret de Navarre, in a fit of  
“ despair I led her to the altar,  
“ and united myself to a woman  
“ incapable of supplanting in my  
“ heart the too lovely Henrietta,  
“ from a total opposition of cha-  
“ racter. I found little reason for  
“ self-reproach from my conscious  
“ indifference towards my wife,  
“ whose conduct, on becoming  
“ Marchioness de Soissons, con-  
“ vinced the world, as well as my-  
“ self, that ambition, not prefe-  
“ rence of me, had influenced her  
“ to bestow her hand. As I had  
“ not a heart to giye her in ex-  
“ change,

“ change, I rejoiced at a disregard,  
“ which rendered me less culpable;  
“ her tenderness and attention must  
“ have ensured my esteem, my  
“ gratitude, and have condemned  
“ my secret sentiments, while her  
“ constant neglect, and imperious-  
“ ness of temper, fortified my  
“ disinclination towards her. Un-  
“ concerned I beheld her rage for  
“ dissipated pleasures; and, insen-  
“ sible to the pangs of jealous love,  
“ I saw her surrounded by a crowd  
“ of flatterers, whose adulations she  
“ received with visible delight.  
“ With far other sensations I be-  
“ held the happy Gramont, when,  
“ three years afterwards, he receiv-  
“ ed the hand of the incomparable  
“ Henrietta;

" Henrietta ; and, vain of such a  
 " bride, seemed proud to boast his  
 " triumph to the world. And still  
 " how different was her deport-  
 " ment to that of the Marchioness ;  
 " though her unparalleled beauty  
 " engaged the admiration of every  
 " beholder, her timidity and  
 " sweetness were so guarded by  
 " the native dignity of her man-  
 " ners, that she repulsed the adorer  
 " while she attracted adoration.

" The Duchess de Gramont ap-  
 " peared in public, with all the  
 " magnificence suitable to her rank ;  
 " but it was visible that her supe-  
 " rior mind was formed for other  
 " scenes than those gay and trifling  
 " circles, which she frequented  
 " only

"only in compliance with a sum-  
 "band's wishes; I confess severe  
 "disjunction inspired me with feelings  
 "of languor over whom nothing could  
 "and seemed to express his mind  
 "submission to a fate irrevocable."  
 "How did I reproach my adverse  
 "stars, which had apparently ren-  
 "dered wretched two honest souls  
 "union with such other might  
 "have crowded our mutual hap-  
 "piness! Yet still be from my  
 "mind the presumptive idea, that  
 "this exalted woman bestowed a  
 "thought of preference on me;  
 "no, her delicacy of soul was incap-  
 "pable of deviating, even in sen-  
 "timent, from the duty she owed  
 "a husband, by the most distant

encouragement of a rival; she  
 never appeared in public without  
 " the Duke, or unaccompanied by  
 " some of his female acquaintance;  
 " by this prudent conduct she  
 " kept her adorers at a distance;  
 " and set the tongue of scandal  
 " at defiance. Soon after our  
 " marriage, having one day at-  
 " tended the Marchioness to a ce-  
 " lebrated painter's, where she was  
 " sitting for her picture; I was  
 " charmed with the first view of  
 " that beauteous portrait now be-  
 " fore you, that sweet resemblance  
 " of a yet more lovely original;  
 " dying to become possessed of  
 " such a treasure, I, by a consi-  
 " derable gratuity, purchased it  
 " of

" of the venal artist, who promised  
 " to send it privately when he had  
 " finished an exact copy. To remove  
 " the shadow of reflection from the  
 " character of Mademoiselle de Va.  
 " liere, which might, without pre-  
 " caution, have suffered from such  
 " a mysterious step, I told him, that  
 " I was collecting a set of the most  
 " admired beauties of the court, to  
 " adorn a gallery at one of my  
 " castles ; and added, smiling, that  
 " he must do all possible justice to  
 " the charms of my wife, that they  
 " might not be eclipsed by those  
 " of her destined companions.

" I flew hither with my newly  
 " acquired treasure ; and, having  
 " completed this cabinet, I, with  
 " my

" my own hands, placed the  
" picture in that destined recess;  
" and here proposed to pass my  
" dearest hours in soothing solitude.  
" The Marchioness, who was to  
" tally unacquainted with this my  
" invisible resort, never suspected  
" the occasion of my frequent ab-  
" sence; and, satisfied with my  
" restraining her in no amusements,  
" she did not interest herself in  
" my pursuits.  
" Hours, days, months, and  
" years, passed on in this manner,  
" and found my heart in the same  
" situation. My sole delight was  
" centered in contemplating this  
" dear resemblance of the most  
" adorable of women! Hither I  
" frequently

" frequently retired from the ini-  
 " pid joys of public life, to indulge  
 " in solitude my unwilling passion.  
 " Six years had revolved since the  
 " marriage of the Duchess de Gra-  
 " mont, when, in the full lustre  
 " of undiminished beauty, she ap-  
 " peared once more at Paris. Her  
 " charms, it is true, were uni-  
 " paired; but the rosy bloom  
 " of happiness had forsaken her  
 " cheek: yet the delicate languor,  
 " the look of plaintive sweetness,  
 " that remained, only rendered her  
 " more interestingly lovely. The  
 " Duke, (pardon me, my Julia, if  
 " I presume to arraign his conduct)  
 " by publicly attaching himself,  
 " successively, to a variety of ob-

"jects; proved the inconstancy of  
 "his disposition: but his celebrated  
 "wife bore every wrong with pa-  
 "tient resignation, nor ever for a  
 "moment deviated from the most  
 "perfect submission to his will:  
 "she shunned the crowded scenes  
 "of dissipation; and, as her pre-  
 "sence was no longer necessary to  
 "enhance his pleasures, she seldom  
 "appeared in public; her children  
 "now claimed her attention and  
 "neglected tenderness; their sweet  
 "careless compensated, in some  
 "degree, for the indifference of  
 "her lord; and, in the endearing  
 "affections of the mother, she en-  
 "deavoured to forget the indig-  
 "nities of an ungrateful husband.

" The

" The last time I had the hap-  
 " piness of beholding this adorable  
 " woman, she appeared surrounded  
 " with ten thousand new and varied  
 " charms: the interesting character  
 " of parent seemed to add even  
 " her incomparable beauty with  
 " added grace. One day, some  
 " consequential business rendering  
 " an interview with the Duke de  
 " Gramont necessary, I repaired  
 " to his hotel, where I was in-  
 " formed that he had quitted it a  
 " few preceding moments. As the  
 " affair rather required dispatch, I  
 " requested admittance into his li-  
 " brary, to write a note of expla-  
 " nation for his perusal at his re-  
 " turn. Having written and sealed

" the letter, as I was rising to do  
 " part, some infantine voices at-  
 " tracted my steps to an open win-  
 " dow which overlooked the gar-  
 " den. Good Heavens ! what an  
 " interesting picture struck my  
 " view ! In a verdant alcove of  
 " intermingled jessamine and roses,  
 " sat the loveliest of women ! Each  
 " snowy arm encircled a blooming  
 " cherubim ! These sweet inno-  
 " cents were adorning with flowers  
 " her shining ringlets : how shall  
 " I describe her countenance ! —  
 " it spoke all the mother ; her  
 " cheek was animated with the  
 " glow of pleasure ; smiles of ma-  
 " ternal fondness dimpled round  
 " her mouth, and in the mild efful-  
 " gence

" glow of her eyes beamed more  
" than usual lustre. My feelings  
" can be imagined by those only  
" who, like me, have loved! — I  
" stood transfixed; never had her  
" character appeared so truly in-  
" teresting: the expressive softness  
" of the parent was added to  
" her other virtues, and exalted  
" her dignity of beauty: my soul  
" was overwhelmed with tenderness  
" — I sighed profoundly, and  
" breathed a silent fervent wish,  
" that heaven had given my chil-  
" dren such a mother. I was go-  
" ing to tear myself from a scene  
" too affecting, when the Duchess,  
" suddenly turning her eyes to-  
" wards the window, discovered  
" and

" and recollected me : at first she  
" started ; and, withdrawing her  
" gentle hold, resigned her lovely  
" offspring to an attendant who  
" stood in waiting : the fading  
" rose retreated from her cheeks ;  
" the sparkling ray of temporary  
" pleasure vanished from her fea-  
" tures, and her wonted languor  
" resumed its influence on her  
" brow. She arose ; and, notwith-  
" standing her visible embarrass-  
" ment, with slow and graceful dig-  
" nity, advanced to the window :  
" I felt a conscious agitation ; she  
" politely inquired after the health  
" of the Marchioness ; I explained  
" the motive of my visit ; and, tear-  
" ing myself from the Duchess,  
" hastily

"hastily quitted the apartment, and  
 "threw myself into thy barge.  
 "The more I gazing'd on the  
 "charming object I had lost, the  
 "more I found my admiration,  
 "my pity, and my love, exceed'd  
 "the character of her unworthy  
 "husband sunk as her virtues rose:  
 "Her heart, formed by nature for  
 "the exquisite sensibility of gentle  
 "natures, and refined affection,  
 "was evidently wasted on a wretch  
 "incapable of sentiment, and  
 "coldly inanimate to the treasure  
 "he possessed. Too soon the  
 "steaming summer snatched her for  
 "ever from my sight! She ap-  
 "peared no more at Paris or Ver-  
 "sailles; and as the insensible  
     " Duke

" Duke had long ceased to have  
 " any delight in her society, he  
 " permitted her, for the future, to  
 " indulge in the solitude of the  
 " country, while he, intoxicated  
 " by the illusions of false pleasures,  
 " pursued, unrestrained, the paths  
 " of vice.

" The Marchioness (though I  
 " must do her the justice to believe  
 " that her virtue was unblemished)  
 " ran on in such a career of dissili-  
 " pation, that her health began to  
 " be visibly impaired : I could not  
 " forbear remonstrating at length  
 " against a conduct so irregular :  
 " a contemptuous reply was all my  
 " satisfaction ; and, in a few years  
 " after our inauspicious marriage,  
 " she

" She fell a martyr to innocent  
" pleasure, and so rejected all

" About two years afterwards,  
" your adored mother became like  
" wise the victim of that grim  
" monarch, who spares neither vir-  
" tue, youth, nor beauty ; too pro-  
" bably she was the prey of secret  
" sorrow ; — but I will not dwell  
" upon a subject, which so much  
" affects your sensibility ; I will  
" only say, that, constant to her  
" memory, I never admitted a  
" thought of infidelity to her, till  
" to her lovely daughter, I trans-  
" fered the heart that ceased not  
" to adore her.

" When your sister's intended  
" marriage with the Count de Sepan-  
" ges

If you was publicly acknowledged  
 " the report of her extraordinary  
 " beauty rendered every one soli-  
 " citous to see her. I accepted  
 " with the rest of the nobility, an  
 " invitation to this superb enter-  
 " tainment, envious, I must confess,  
 " to behold the daughter of the  
 " woman I adored. I attended the  
 " nuptial ceremony; but my pre-  
 " sence being indispensably need-  
 " sary, to visit the bed of a depart-  
 " ing friend, I quitted almost im-  
 " mediately afterwards the scene of  
 " festivity for the house of death.  
 " When the Countess de Sanguex  
 " appeared, I sought in vain to  
 " trace her mother's features: my  
 " eyes confessed her beautiful,  
 " though

" thought she bore a resemblance  
" only to her father. But she was  
" followed by the perfect image  
" of that lovely mother, who still  
" haunted my imagination with her  
" fond idea. The same angelic  
" sweetness beamed in your count-  
" eyes; the same timid dignity  
" spoke in each graceful gesture,  
" charming while it awed the ad-  
" miring gazer. or vno del sol  
" I viewed, with all the force of  
" recollect'd tenderness, that beau-  
" ty which so perfectly resembled  
" your seraphic mother: each look  
" recalled her loved idea to my  
" mind, and awakened those dor-  
" mant sentiments, which length  
" of time could not totally extin-  
" guish.

“ grieve in my heart. Yet had I  
“ not the vain presumption to ima-  
“ gine that a lady so young, and;  
“ as I then supposed, the heiress  
“ of a princely fortune, could look  
“ with condescension upon thy ad-  
“ vancing age : but when I was  
“ informed that you were destined  
“ to a convent, unable to credit  
“ so improbable a report, I took  
“ the liberty to interrogate the  
“ Duke, whether he had actually  
“ condemned to eternal solitude  
“ that matchless beauty ? He  
“ coldly answered, that, having lost  
“ three sons, he had resolved to  
“ make his elder daughter the sole  
“ heiress of his fortune, and that  
“ Julia must resign herself to a  
“ diug.”

“ holy

" holy life. I remonstrated against  
 " the injustice of depriving his  
 " child of every social connexion ;  
 " and argued, that the charms of  
 " Mademoiselle de Gramont en-  
 " titled her to expect an alliance  
 " equally illustrious with that of  
 " the Countess de Senanges. He  
 " answered ironically, that, as her  
 " charms would be her only por-  
 " tion, he was not likely to meet  
 " with suitors equal to her birth ;  
 " and consequently a seclusion from  
 " the world's allurements was the  
 " surest security to her innocence  
 " and happiness.

" I quitted with disdain this un-  
 " natural parent : but I found my-  
 " self too tenderly interested for

" the lovely daughter of the wo-  
" man I once adored, to suffer her  
" to become the victim of ambi-  
" tion. I considered, though I  
" was long past the meridian of  
" life, that the blooming Julia  
" might prefer even an union so  
" unequal to the severities of a  
" convent, which must eternally  
" seclude her from every social  
" happiness. Determined to rescue,  
" if possible, so much innocence  
" and beauty, from such a cruel  
" sacrifice, I wrote my proposal  
" to the Duke, and offered to his  
" daughter my hand and fortune,  
" without any dowry; but, at the  
" same time, insisted upon his leav-  
" ing her at her own disposal, and  
" entreating

" entreating him not to influence  
 " her choice.—I received a reply  
 " which confirmed my wishes,  
 " with the assurance that my Julia  
 " hesitated not to accept my views.

" I found the Duke de Gramont  
 " as anxiously impatient for the  
 " conclusion of this treaty as I  
 " could be myself; and it was at  
 " his particular request that I  
 " consented to keep our intend-  
 " ed marriage secret till after its  
 " celebration. He hinted, that  
 " my sons, (who would regard a  
 " second union as fatal to their  
 " interest), might artfully find  
 " means to prejudice his daughter  
 " against yielding her promised  
 " hand, and put a period to my

“ warmest hopes. I acquiesced,  
“ concluding that you, Madam,  
“ were acquainted with your fa-  
“ ther's wishes : pardon me, love-  
“ list of women, if I submitted  
“ to a mysterious appearance, (in  
“ a circumstance I might have  
“ proudly published to the world,)  
“ since it was to secure a prize so  
“ inestimable ! Too well acquaint-  
“ ed with the character of my elder  
“ sons, who, alas ! inherit the  
“ haughty, despotic temper of their  
“ unhappy mother, I judged it  
“ preferable to present you to them  
“ as Marchioness de Soissons, ra-  
“ ther than as my intended bride.  
“ Thus have I unfolded the in-  
“ most recesses of my heart, and  
“ revealed

“ revealed to you a secret, buried  
“ even from its birth in my own  
“ conscious breast. You have  
“ deigned to overlook our dispa-  
“ rity of age, and to unite your  
“ blooming youth with my declin-  
“ ing years. Your father (permit  
“ me to hope) has not deceived  
“ me in declaring your sentiments  
“ uninfluenced by his authority :  
“ but, Madam, should your gen-  
“ tleness of nature, and filial sub-  
“ mission, have actuated you to  
“ resign your hand the reluctant  
“ sacrifice of duty, then, though I  
“ must ever regret a circumstance so  
“ fatal to our mutual happiness,  
“ yet shall I cherish the consoling  
“ idea, that I have at least rescued

“ the most lovely of victims from a  
“ barbarous captivity! My Julia’s  
“ beauty, which was cruelly doom-  
“ ed to the eternal concealment of  
“ a convent, shall now adorn the  
“ gay circles it was formed to grace.  
“ When we have passed a few  
“ more days at this castle, I shall  
“ propose to you a change of scene  
“ better adapted to your age and  
“ rank. You must appear at court,  
“ and shine there in unrivalled  
“ beauty.”

“ Pardon, my lord,” interrupted  
the Marchioness, with a look of in-  
expressible sweetness, “ the teme-  
“ rity of a wife, who presumes to  
“ differ with your sentiments on  
“ this one occasion: if you wish  
“ to complete the happiness of  
“ Julia,

" Julia, keep her remote from the  
 " parade of courts, and all the  
 " pomp surrounding royal greatness ! Far from the unyielding  
 " scenes of public life, suffer her,  
 " in these delightful shades, to pass  
 " her tranquil days ; here, in con-  
 " templating and retracing with  
 " you, and my dear Tourville, the  
 " exalted character of my la-  
 " mented mother, I shall endea-  
 " vor, from her example, to ren-  
 " der myself more worthy of him  
 " whom it shall be the study of my  
 " heart to please : — educated with  
 " the prospect of retirement, I have  
 " a taste alone for rural pleasures,  
 " and wish for no society but  
 " yours."

" Loveliest, most excellent of  
" women ! " exclaimed the Mar-  
quis ; " how am I rewarded by all  
" gracious heaven for sorrows past :  
" the remainder of a life devoted  
" to your happiness will scarce suf-  
" ficiently denote my gratitude.—  
" Arbitress of my fate ! — you shall  
" direct my every action, and your  
" own; whether your wishes tend to  
" bloom in retirement, or to shine  
" in public, shall be submitted to  
" your choice.— But we are ex-  
" pected," continued the Marquis  
rising ; " supper awaits us in the  
" citron grove : — shall I lead you  
" thither ? "

Julia yielded her hand with an  
enchanting grace ; and, accompa-  
nied

nied by Madame de Tourville; quitted (heaving a gentle sigh) the receptacle which had so long contained the inestimable picture of her mother.

The various emotions of the young Marchioness, during the interesting recital of her lord, can better be imagined than described : tears and sighs had often interrupted it : she wept the fate of an unhappy mother, and tenderly felt for the disappointments of a husband, whose attachment to the author of her being endeared him to her, and whose affectionate attentions to herself excited her utmost gratitude. She revered his character ; she esteemed his virtues ;

but,

but, alas ! she loved his son. In comparing the misfortunes of the Marquis and Augustus, she found a fatal similarity : each the victim of an unpropitious passion, they were both equally condemned to behold the object of their wishes torn from their fondest hopes.

The following day, finding herself alone with her amiable friend ;  
 " Alas !" cried the Marchioness,  
 " how are the misfortunes of the  
 " Duchess de Gramont entailed  
 " upon her unhappy daughter !"  
 " like her, I am the sacrifice of  
 " imperious duty :— like her, I  
 " am enslaved by a relentless pa-  
 " rent : but you, my dearest Tour-  
 " ville, whose friendship for my  
 " exalted

" exalted mother claimed all her  
 " confidence, and whose sympa-  
 " thetic tenderness now shares the  
 " sorrows of her hapless Julia ?  
 " say, am not I doubly wretched ?  
 " She only mourned an union  
 " where her heart was unconsulted ;  
 " while I, with accumulated woe,  
 " find myself torn from the man  
 " I loved, to become the father's  
 " wife !"

" Moderate your affliction, my  
 " beloved child," interrupted Ma-  
 dame de Tourville, " and let the  
 " example of your angelic mother  
 " strengthen your patience. Alas !  
 " how gentler far your lot than  
 " hers ! you are separated, it is  
 " true, from the lover of your  
 " choice ;

“ choice ; but you have a husband.  
“ in every respect, excepting dis-  
“ parity of age, worthy of you ;  
“ and whose benevolence of heart  
“ would ensure your happiness,  
“ could you but conquer one fatal  
“ prepossession. I am going to di-  
“ vulge a confidence I have hi-  
“ therto held sacred ; but the lesson  
“ will prove useful, and the unsul-  
“ lied character of your virtuous  
“ mother must rise in your opinion  
“ from a knowledge of her senti-  
“ ments.—You would urge she had  
“ no passion to contend with — Ah,  
“ my Julia ! the Duchess de Gra-  
“ mont possessed a mind too deli-  
“ cately susceptible to be insensible  
“ of exalted merit ; but so strictly  
“ was

“ was she guarded, by her duty and  
“ her virtue, that she scarcely per-  
“ mitted herself to be acquainted  
“ with the birth of her unfortunate  
“ attachment, ere she attempted  
“ resolutely to banish the object  
“ from her thoughts. Her incom-  
“ parable heart, formed to love  
“ but once, could not, however,  
“ gain a victory so complete over  
“ an involuntary sentiment. Her  
“ fatal passion ceased but with her  
“ existence. Forced into marriage  
“ by an ambitious mother, who,  
“ regardless of the happiness of her  
“ child, sought only to exalt her, she  
“ found her hand in the possession  
“ of the Duke de Gramont, while  
“ her heart was the conquest of the  
“ Marquis de Soissons.”

“ Unfortunate,

"Unfortunate, unhappy mother!"  
 exclaimed the Marchioness; "how  
 singular our fate! while adverse  
 stars placed an irrevocable bar  
 between thee and the object of  
 affection, by the same fatality,  
 that very hand which would have  
 formed thy felicity was destined  
 to complete the misery of Julia."  
 She sunk her head upon the bosom  
 of Madame de Tourville, and gave  
 freedom to a torrent of tears: her  
 tender friend suffered them to flow,  
 and mingled drops of sympathetic  
 sorrow.

When the young Marchioness  
 found utterance, "Oh, my friend,"  
 she cried, "what a consolation is  
 thy friendship to the hapless  
 Julia! That soothing kindness,  
 which

" which softened the mother's woe,  
 " extends its comforts to the child  
 " of her misfortunes ! But delay  
 " not, say dear Tourville, to pur-  
 " sue the interesting narrative :  
 " point out to my imitator her  
 " spotless, pure example. Teach  
 " me to rise, like her, superior to  
 " calamity; and to sacrifice, to the  
 " duty I owe a husband, a passion  
 " so injurious to his tenderness.  
 " Let me prove the gratitude and  
 " reverence I owe to her respected  
 " memory, by redoubling my at-  
 " tentions and esteem for an ob-  
 " ject so dear to her, so worthy  
 " the distinction of her love ! "

Madame de Tourville thus re-  
 sumed :— " My acquaintance with  
 " your

“ your amiable mother commented  
“ in the Abbey aux Bois; where,  
“ preceding our respective mar-  
“ riages, we spent together three  
“ of our happiest years. Alas! how  
“ frequently have we since regretted  
“ those days of tranquil pleasures!  
“ We were both born to affluence,  
“ and smiling fortune seemed to  
“ promise to our youthful hopes a  
“ circling train of social joys. De-  
“ lusive, vain ideas!—too soon the  
“ flattering vision fled, and early  
“ sorrows dashed with bitterness  
“ our cup of life, changing the  
“ charming prospects we had  
“ formed into a vale of tears!—  
“ Yes, my young friend,” (observ-  
ing Madame de Seissons fixing  
upon

upon her an eye of inquisitive concern,) " deeply have I felt affliction's iron rod ! one day you shall learn my fatal story ; at present let me continue scenes to you more interesting. I pass over these delightful years ; sufficient, for your information, is it to mention that my first year of widowhood expired at the period that the bridal one of Mademoiselle de Valiere commenced. We were united in the tenderest friendship ; and, in compliance with the earnest wishes of the young Duchess, I repaired to the hotel de Gramont, as soon as the public rejoicings which celebrated her nuptials began to sub-

" side. We were transported at  
 " the sight of each other, after an  
 " interval of above two years, and  
 " were some moments speechless ;  
 " the mutual tears of sensibility  
 " straying down our cheeks, from  
 " the force of tender recollection.  
 " The Duke entered during the  
 " dumb scene ; but your father's  
 " salutation drew my attention sud-  
 " denly to him, and I own I felt  
 " the most fatal presages of my  
 " friend's unhappy lot, from the  
 " tone and words with which he  
 " accosted me.

" ' Your arrival, Madam,' said he  
 " in an ironical accent, ' is dou-  
 " bly welcome, both from your  
 " own merits, and the additional  
 " graces

" " greet you resolutely upon the Duke  
 " " cheval de Gramont; since her re-  
 " " ception of you discovers to me  
 " " that she had a heart capable of  
 " " warmth and tenderness!"

" I found myself at a loss for a  
 " reply, when the Baronefs de Val-  
 " liere was announced. She politely  
 " welcomed me to Paris; and, hav-  
 " ing frequently seen me in her  
 " former visits at the Abbey aux  
 " Bois, she entered into conver-  
 " sation relative to some occurrences  
 " which had passed, at that period.  
 " During this discourse the Duke  
 " withdrew, and I had leisure to  
 " contemplate, unobserved by her,  
 " the countenance of my friend.  
 " Having respectfully saluted the

" Baroness, she had retired to a  
" seat in one of the windows over-  
" looking the gardens, reclining  
" her head upon her hand : when  
" we separated at the convent,  
" she was in the dawn of opening  
" charms; I now found her graces  
" heightened by the radiant tints  
" of finished beauty. She was in-  
" deed perfectly lovely ; but over  
" her features was spread a languor,  
" which, though it in some degree  
" obscured the natural lustre of  
" her eyes, diminished nothing  
" from that captivating sweetnes  
" which pourtrayed a mind alive to  
" every sentiment of benevolence  
" and sympathy ! A soft and pen-  
" sive sadness hung upon her brow,  
" that

" that too plainly indicated she  
" was far from happy.

" The Baroness perceiving me to  
" cast an inquiring look upon the  
" Duchess; ' Your arrival, Madame  
" de Tourville,' said she, ' will  
" have, I trust, the most pleas-  
" ing effect upon my daughter;  
" she has anxiously expected you;  
" you are the sister of her heart;  
" your early friendship, and equa-  
" lity of age, will influence her  
" opinion, and, I flatter myself,  
" excite in her a taste for the  
" public sphere in which she is  
" now placed.

" You see her surrounded by  
" magnificence and state, the envy  
" of our sex, the adoration of man-

K 3                  " kind :

" kind : yet she seems to view  
 " the homage she attracts, and all  
 " the pomp of greatness, with an  
 " insensibility unaccountable in so  
 " young a creature." As she spoke  
 " I perceived a trickling tear steal  
 " down the cheek of Madame de  
 " Gramont, while her gentle bo-  
 " som seemed to suppress an invi-  
 " luntary sigh. I was preparing  
 " a reply, when the Duchess was  
 " roused from her reflections by the  
 " arrival of company. Dinner was  
 " served up, play succeeded, and  
 " the social party broke not up  
 " till midnight.

" The Duke de Gramont, who  
 " could affect what character he  
 " chose, appeared all life, all gai-  
 " ety ;

"  
" city ; and his charming wife af-  
" formed at least a vivacity, which  
" added graces to all she said and  
" did. " You are now yourself,"  
" whispered I to her during the  
" course of the evening, " the same  
" smiling Henrietta I dreaded to  
" have lost" — She pressed my  
" hand ; — " It is the presence of my  
" Adelaide," said she, " that in-  
" spires me with an unusual joy,  
" and revives some traces of  
" long dormant happiness ! " She  
" gently sighed, and turned away  
" abruptly, to conceal the starting  
" tear that trembled in her eye.

" I observed Madame de Valiere  
" to be deeply engaged in play : it  
" was, next to ambition, the dar-

“ ling passion of her soul. She  
“ arose a considerable winner;  
“ which so visible elated her spi-  
“ rits, that she oppressed me with  
“ caresses, and professions of re-  
“ gard. ‘ You have worked won-  
“ ders, child,’ said she; ‘ you will  
“ render my daughter every thing  
“ we wish. The Duke is enchant-  
“ ed with the cheerful attentions  
“ with which she has performed  
“ the honours of this evening.’ I  
“ bowed in silence to this flattering  
“ address, ardently, longing for the  
“ moment that should disperse this  
“ gay assembly, and give me li-  
“ berty to relax in my own apart-  
“ ment from the fatigue my spirits  
“ had undergone. Although I  
“ arrived

I arrived at the conclusion of the  
public rejoicings which had cele-  
brated the nuptials of your pa-  
rents, yet I found that successive  
engagements left but little time  
for the interval of those charm-  
ing hours we had passed together  
in our sweet retirement at the  
convent. The Duke, vain of  
exhibiting a bride so lovely, was  
daily promoting her appearance  
in the circles of the young and  
gay. He had no taste for do-  
mestic pleasures: in his attach-  
ment to the Duchess, exterior  
beauty was her only charm; the  
refinement of her understanding,  
and the intellectual accomplish-  
ments of her mind, could yield  
him

“ him no delight. While Henrietta possessed the powers of novelty, she maintained some empire over his heart; but, as he ever suffered his inclinations to predominate over his reason, he was the slave of passion, the easy prey of female artifice, and, though a short-lived conquest, from his natural inconstancy, yet he was the sure captive of successive beauties.

“ One evening, when, on pretence of a slight indisposition, the Duchess had prevailed upon the Duke to leave her at home, we availed ourselves of this first opportunity to pass some uninterrupted hours together. It was then

" then thus, in recalling our girlish  
" amusements to our remembrance,  
" we renewed that mutual confi-  
" dence which formed the first basis  
" of our early friendship. Alas ! in  
" those days of innocent delight  
" we had only pleasures to com-  
" municato ; and if an ideal pain  
" arose, from some disappointed  
" pastime, ' the tear forgot as soon  
" as she 't effaced the puerile sor-  
" row, and the bright beam of  
" joy-inspiring hope resumed its  
" empire in our youthful bosoms !  
" Now, sad reverse ! the die was  
" cast, and cast for life ! our minds,  
" matured by age, and rendered  
" more capable of reflection, seem-  
" ed to have acquired from nature  
" most

“ most exquisite sensibility, only to  
“ feel more acutely the arrows of  
“ adversity ! the world, of which  
“ our infant minds had formed  
“ such flattering ideas, had already  
“ blasted our every hope of happi-  
“ ness ! I had long resigned my-  
“ self to the strokes of accumulated  
“ misfortunes ; and now found, in  
“ addition to my sorrows, that my  
“ dear and only friend, like me,  
“ was fated to experience afflic-  
“ tion’s cruel hand ! With poig-  
“ nant regret I discovered the  
“ dreaded confirmations of my sus-  
“ picions, that my beloved Hen-  
“ rietta, in submission to an am-  
“ bitious mother’s will, had sacri-  
“ ficed her liberty and peace ! I  
“ wept

" wept her destiny ; but attempted  
" to console her at the same time,  
" by representing that her griefs  
" were more supportable than  
" mine. I, in direct opposition to  
" a father's sacred commands, had  
" dared to bestow my hand un-  
" sanctified by duty ; and, in unit-  
" ing myself to the object of my  
" inconsiderate love, had deservedly  
" incurred the miseries that at-  
" tended our inauspicious marriage !  
" while, on the contrary, her filial  
" obedience gave her at least a  
" claim to comparative happiness,  
" with a man who could not but  
" adore her ; and, though he was  
" not the preferred lover of her  
" choice she at least had not, I  
" flattered

" flattered myself, to enliven her  
" sorrows, the conscious reproofs  
" that he had a rival in her affec-  
" tions. — As I uttered these words  
" her countenance changed; she  
" bent her eyes upon the ground,  
" and heaving a gentle sigh — ' Ah  
" ' my Adelaide ! ' said she, ' You  
" ' have now touched a string too  
" ' tender ! My affections, alas !  
" ' are but too guilty, if an invi-  
" ' luntary sensibility can be consi-  
" ' dered such. They have strayed  
" beyond recall; and thy Henri-  
" etta has given her empty hand  
" to a husband, while her heart  
" is for ever devoted to another.'

" But,' continued she, raising  
" her charming eyes to heaven,  
" and

" and clasping her uplifted hands,  
" while the glow of conscious virtue  
" animated her features. 'Never  
" ' never shall this unfortunate pre-  
" ' ference be injurious to the duty  
" ' I owe my husband; my guilty  
" ' sentiments shall never deviate  
" ' from the vow I uttered at the  
" ' altar: the heart that has struck  
" ' shall be the victim of its frailty;  
" ' while it beats with life, in ever  
" ' must be dead to happiness. You,  
" ' my Adelaide, have beguiled me  
" ' into the confession of a weakness  
" ' I scarce acknowledged to my-  
" ' self, and of which the object is  
" ' and shall be, eternally ignorant.  
" ' But I conjure you, by your  
" ' friendship, never to resume the  
" ' painful

“ painful subject. Had not fate  
“ otherwise decreed, I might have  
“ gloried in my preference of con-  
“ spicuous merit, distinguished by  
“ birth, but ennobled more by  
“ virtue, he was worthy of me;  
“ yet our irrevocable fate (which  
“ destined us not for each other)  
“ has placed a double bar between  
“ us! Never, never let the cruel  
“ officiousness of friendship urge  
“ me to disclose a name sacred  
“ to silence: and rest assured, the  
“ soul of Henrietta is capable of  
“ combating against every senti-  
“ ment inconsistent with her ho-  
“ nour and her duty.”  
“ The exalted creature ceased—  
“ after a pause of some moments,  
“ finding

" And I continued silent,  
 " from the time when  
 " my pity, and  
 " with a kind of melancholy  
 " [ch. thinking of  
 " and, in mind, and  
 " evinced the same  
 " feelings, and gave birth  
 " mind, varied the usual sombre  
 "沉着ing occurred on this subject  
 " at that period, failing me to  
 " She now entered into a long  
 " discourse which contained no  
 " renewal of the confidence she had  
 " reposed in me. I listened with  
 " pleasure her narration, and  
 " appear cheerful, though I saw  
 " the variety of scenes through  
 " penitent of, in sympathy with

" her lord's desire : she studied  
" the temper of his mind, endeavoured  
" to prevent his wishes,  
" and submitted to his frequent  
" impetuosity of humour, with the  
" most engaging sweetness. But,  
" notwithstanding her delicate re-  
serve, I soon discovered the dis-  
tinguished rival of the Duke de  
Gramont ; and it was, indeed,  
from that delicate reserve of sen-  
timent that I became the in-  
voluntary mistress of a secret she  
so ardently wished to conceal  
even from me.

" One morning at breakfast a  
list of visitors being, at her command, presented to the Duchess,  
the Duke requested to read them;  
and,

" and, in running through the  
 " names, carelessly said, while his  
 " eyes continued on the paper.  
 " ' Have not you forgot, Henrietta,  
 " ' to invite the Marquis and Mar-  
 " chioness de Soiffons to your en-  
 " tertainment to-morrow ? ' A  
 " blush overspread her cheeks ; she  
 " replied, visibly embarrassed, that  
 " it was a voluntary omission, from  
 " rather a dislike to Madame de  
 " Soiffons, whose dissipated con-  
 " duct and levity of manners were  
 " peculiarly unpleasing to her.

" ' Oh ! you are too punctilious,'  
 " returned the Duke ; ' and, from  
 " the refined decorum of your own  
 " sentiments, expect a faint in-  
 " every female acquaintance ; yet I

" never heard you censorious nov-  
 " sate. The Marchioness is indeed  
 " sally courted and caressed; her  
 " character is unblemished; and  
 " that of the Marquis, 'with rather  
 " a satirical smile,' is perfectly de-  
 " fied, from its near approach to  
 " perfection; so, Henrietta, by  
 " no means omit an invitation to  
 " them."

" The Duchess bowed a silent  
 " assent, with such a look of in-  
 " quietude, that I was not without  
 " my suspicions, her objection to  
 " Madame de Sevrons was the re-  
 " sult of secret jealousy; but the  
 " events of the evening proved me  
 " mistaken in that conjecture."

" And when we were seated  
 " I told them that I had  
 " desired Mme de Gramont  
 " to come to the party,  
 " proposed our meeting with the  
 " officers; but, when we had been  
 " arrived, he was so deeply con-  
 " gaged at play with the Baroness  
 " de Valiere, (who intended to be  
 " of the party), that he desired  
 " Madame de Gramont to receive  
 " him for half an hour, when he  
 " would join us with his friends.  
 " She requested we might well send  
 " them, but they  
 " means permission; the officers  
 " kindly obeyed, and we let our fol-  
 " gether for the opera. At the

" conclusion of the first act, the  
" Duchess stood up to enter into  
" conversation with some ladies in  
" the adjoining box: suddenly I  
" observed her complexion turn of  
" a death-like paleness, at the ap-  
" pearance of the Marquis de Sois-  
" sons. She was, for the first  
" moment of her life, unguarded.  
" Casting a look of anxiety on me,  
" 'Oh, my God!' she softly ex-  
" claimed, as she seated herself by  
" me: alarmed at her apparent agi-  
" tation, I tenderly inquired if she  
" found herself indisposed? She  
" instantly recollect ed her indiscre-  
" tion; her face was overspread  
" with conscious blushes; — she  
" fanned

" fanned herself, and complained  
" of the heat of the house, which  
" was indeed excessive.

" Monsieur de Soissons, whose  
" attention had hitherto been en-  
" gaged by the party in the next  
" box, now first discovered the  
" Duchess de Gramont : the ten-  
" derest emotion was visible in his  
" countenance, as he respectfully  
" bowed to her ; and, from that  
" interesting moment, I was no  
" longer ignorant of the mutual  
" and unfortunate attachment of  
" the two most perfect beings that  
" Nature had ever formed ! He  
" was then, my Julia, in the prime  
" of youth ; his figure full of dig-  
" nity and grace, and his fine fea-

" turns animated by those amiable  
 " and exalted sentiments which  
 " so eminently have distinguished  
 " his character through the course  
 " of his exemplary life.

" The Duchess had resumed an  
 " apparent composure : she arose;  
 " and, with a look of ineffable  
 " sweetness, chastened by that de-  
 " licate reserve which ever ruled  
 " her conduct, inquired after the  
 " health of Madame de Soissons.  
 " The opera recommencing, she  
 " fixed all her attention to the  
 " stage, except when she turned  
 " her anxious eyes towards the  
 " door in quest of the Duke, who,  
 " however, did not arrive the whole  
 " evening. Her averted looks gave  
 " the

" the Marquis an opportunity of  
 " contemplating the beauty with  
 " which his heart seemed evidently  
 " but too thunderly impressed. I  
 " could perceive him gaze with  
 " expressive admiration, and often  
 " attempt to suppress an beaving  
 " sigh. Taught myself, in adver-  
 " sity's hard school, to feel a pang  
 " for every son and daughter of  
 " affliction, I was sensibly touched  
 " with regret for an ill-fated pair,  
 " whose congenial minds seemed  
 " formed for each other's happi-  
 " ness, yet were too surely the ini-  
 " voluntary source to each other  
 " of mutual misery ! Honour and  
 " delicacy, which suffered not so  
 " unfortunate a passion to pass the  
 " sacred

“ sacred bounds of silence, refused  
“ them even the soothing satisfaction  
“ of knowing their reciprocal at-  
“ tachment. The Duchess, indeed,  
“ (though never did I hear her  
“ acknowledge it), could scarcely  
“ be ignorant of the impression she  
“ had made; what was visible to  
“ my friendship, could not be un-  
“ observed by the more piercing  
“ eye of love: yet her delicacy  
“ of sentiment admitted not the  
“ avowal even to me; nor could  
“ she have survived the idea that  
“ the object of a prepossession, she  
“ used every effort to subdue, was  
“ conscious of his triumph. No-  
“ thing but her restraint, in his  
“ company, and obvious wishes to  
“ avoid

" avoid his conversation, could  
 " divulge the secret. At the con-  
 " clusion of the opera, Madame  
 " de Gramont hastily accepted the  
 " offered hand of Monsieur de  
 " Rouville to lead her to the cat-  
 " riage, with the evident design  
 " of eluding the attentions of the  
 " Marquis, who silently bowed as  
 " she passed. We found the Duke  
 " and Madame de Valiere as deeply  
 " engrossed at play as when we  
 " left them ; they seemed surprised  
 " at our early return, and the Duke  
 " declared he could not have con-  
 " ceived the opera to have been  
 " half over.

" The next morning, as we were  
 " walking in the garden, the Du-  
 " chess looked at me with earnest-  
 " ness ;

"ness ; and then casting down her  
"eyes, ' My Adelaide,' said she  
"in a low voice, ' is a friend in  
"deed ; she has discovered the  
"weakness of Henrietta, yet  
"generously forbears her re-  
"proaches.'

" : So little do I think Henrietta  
"capable of weakness,' replied  
"I, ' that I cannot acknowledge  
"having discovered any. I see  
"nothing in so irreproachable a  
"conduct but a firmness of mind  
"worthy admiration.' ' Ah,  
"'there,' exclaimed she, ' you  
"have betrayed yourself ; your  
"partial friendship vainly would  
"appear unconscious of what is  
"but too visible : though heaven  
"forbid (casting a fearful look)  
"that

"that any eye but yours should  
 have perceived the little secret  
 I would otherwise have known;  
 self.

"How know the secret of my  
 guilt, friend?—I have nothing to do  
 with your son's death; all  
 opinion to the contrary knows  
 that I am the wife of Clement  
 now; the husband of Clement;  
 but, clasping her hand, "And  
 covering with a handkerchief her  
 burning cheek, "Are you angry?  
 at least he guilty, but he did not  
 dare to upset a house full of children  
 for all I could do of it; he offered  
 to the relief of his distressed  
 ing heart. I scolded him for his  
 temerous mirthless, and unfeeling

“ to reconcile her to herself, by  
“ expatiating upon the rectitude of  
“ her conduct, and the innocence of  
“ her mind. — I think, my dearest  
“ Julia,” continued Madame de  
Tourville, “ you are now too suf-  
“ ficiently acquainted with the sen-  
“ timents of your irreproachable  
“ mother, to imagine her lot of  
“ happiness superior to your own.  
“ Never did the unkindness she  
“ experienced from a husband ex-  
“ tort from her patient gentleness  
“ a single reproach : her exemplary  
“ attention to please him was unre-  
“ mitted ; though the only return  
“ she met with was moroseness  
“ and ill-humour. His caprice of  
“ temper was, however, kept with-  
“ in

" in tolerable bounds for the first  
" twelve months of their union; till  
" the birth of a daughter, by dis-  
" appointing him of an expected  
" heir, increased his unkindness  
" to her unhappy mother. Your  
" appearance about four years af-  
" terwards, during which interval  
" he had buried two successive  
" sons, completed the displeasure  
" of your father: you were follow-  
" ed by one more brother, who  
" survived his premature birth but  
" a few hours. This fatal event  
" threw the Duke into such a fit  
" of desperation as made every  
" spectator tremble: though the  
" unfortunate Duchess was herself  
" in a state which foreboded an al-

" most

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"most imminent danger,  
"unfeeling Duke, to withdraw  
"loss of a life so valuable; and  
"no anxiety on her part, but  
"what with difficulty she could  
"from entering the room,  
"where the lay, pale and wan,  
"to reproach the injurious  
"lovely mother with the death of  
"an infant, who was on the point  
"of causing her's.  
"It pleased heaven to restore  
"her for a short interval to her  
"prayers. She feebly recovered  
"from immediate danger; but her  
"delicate constitution was so im-  
"paired by the Duke's unkindness,  
"joined to the loss of her infant,  
"whom she fondly thought surely  
"regretted,

"negligent, and I could do nothing.  
"Gaudet, however, was not to be daunted,  
"soon flew from the scene of action,  
"and, suddenly, just as the battle  
"was at its height, he came up to the  
"son of Beaufort, who was  
"of inhibiting the progress of French  
"troops in Monferrato, and Cap-

"most, although the commanding  
"health of this incomparable  
"man was then far from robust.  
"had no suspicion. He had indeed  
"heard of infinite evil among the  
"morse, if perchance his 1500  
"undisciplined countrymen, who  
"constantly attacked him, and the  
"league of Peris, which he had  
"retired after the battle of Vercelli.  
"Baron de Valois, after this

VOL. I.

M " sweet

“ Sweet retreat we were seldom  
“ visited by your father : the Du-  
“ chess employed her well-regu-  
“ lated time in acts of benevolence  
“ to the surrounding poor, and in  
“ a perseverance of that humble  
“ piety which kept her in constant  
“ preparation for that heavenly  
“ illumination, which the languid  
“ situation of her health, for the  
“ last six months, made her almost  
“ daily expect. Her hours of hap-  
“ piness were those she indulged  
“ with her beloved children. In  
“ their presence she seemed to lose  
“ the remembrance of every sor-  
“ row; till a recollection of the im-  
“ pending stroke, which was to  
“ deprive them of her protection,  
“ would

" would sometimes force the in-  
" voluntary tear.

" Several weeks elapsed without  
" our the Duke's visiting his in-  
" jured wife; or even making an  
" inquiry; and, notwithstanding  
" the frequent information I pri-  
" vately sent him of the Duchess's  
" increasing illness, he neither an-  
" swered my letters, or took any  
" notice of their contents. Her  
" resignation was exemplary as his  
" faultless life had been: she was  
" sensible of her approaching fit,  
" and of the indifference of a foul  
" band, from whom she imagined a  
" tender rehement. She wished  
" to have recommended the pledges  
" of her unfortunate vision to the

M 2      " protection

" protection of their father—but  
" this sad consolation was denied  
" her: she regretted, but she mur-  
" mured not: death had no ter-  
" rors for a soul like her's! and  
" she only lamented her untimely  
" doom from the tender claims of  
" maternal affection. How would  
" she strain her children to her  
" bosom; and, while the tear of  
" anxious fondness stole down her  
" cheek, implore the blessing of  
" her God to guard their bloom-  
" ing innocence! She conjured  
" me never to forsake them, but  
" to prove my regard to her me-  
" mory by an unremitting attention  
" to them. 'When I am no more,  
" 'oh, Adelaide,' said she, 'be thou  
" a mother

" a mother to these unfortunate  
 " remains of a beloved friend !  
 " cultivate their tender minds,  
 " train them to virtue, implant  
 " religion as the first of duties —  
 " that point includes them all.  
 " Should the disregard the Duke  
 " evinces towards their dying mo-  
 " ther exist beyond the grave, and  
 " extend its influence to her sur-  
 " viv ing daughters; tell them that  
 " no want of tenderness in the pa-  
 " rent can justify a breach of filial  
 " duty. — Yet surely nature must  
 " plead in the bosom of a father.  
 " Their innocence claims his pro-  
 " tection, let their obedience me-  
 " rit his affection ! .but oh, my  
 " Adelaide !

“ “ Adelaide ! warn their unsuspect-  
“ “ ing youth to shun the delusive  
“ “ pleasures of the world : convince  
“ “ them that the tranquil vase of  
“ “ retirement leads alone to real  
“ “ happiness ! soon will these lan-  
“ “ guid eyes be closed in peace,  
“ “ and my sad bosom breathe its  
“ “ final sigh ! Let my cold remains  
“ “ be privately deposited in their  
“ “ native earth ; let me be forgot-  
“ “ ten : may no sculptured urn or  
“ “ pageant monument denote the  
“ “ dwelling where my relics sleep.  
“ “ Assure the Duke I die in per-  
“ “ fect friendship with him ; con-  
“ “ juring heaven to shower upon  
“ “ his head its choicest blessings.—

“ “ Oh !

" " Oh ! may that blessed ! with  
 " " enlightening beams regard him  
 " " from this path of error ! " said  
 " " Those were her last words  
 " " sentiments ; her remaining mo-  
 " " ments were dedicated to her  
 " " God, with that fervency of de-  
 " " votion which had supported her  
 " " through the trials of her short  
 " " life, and which now reconciled  
 " " her to become the victim of an  
 " " early grave. — *Selma*  
 " " Not to dwell longer on a sub-  
 " " ject too affecting to your sensi-  
 " " bility, let me close the scene of  
 " " that pure and spotless life which  
 " " deprived the world of an orna-  
 " " ment — my Julia of a mother —  
 " " myself of a friend invaluable ! "

A pathetic pause ensued. Tears and sighs for some time supplied the place of language; the Marchioness fixed her streaming eyes upon her friend, in an agony of unutterable sorrow. At length the transport of her fears subsided, and recollective reason calmed her soul.

" What do I not owe you, oh my friend!" said she, " for pointing to my view this bright example? Never can the sad story of a mother's woes be effaced from my remembrance! her perfect character shall be my guide through life. What are my miseries compared with hers? they are comparatively blessings. Shall I dare to mur-

dering A

4 M

" mur

(( 169 ))

" mind of my fate when I reflect  
" how she supported a mortified  
" illus! affly tho' she contrabell  
" Oh; may my future design  
" ation to the will of heaven red-  
" der me in some degree worthy  
" such a mother! from this mo-  
" ment I devote myself to the  
" duties of that station wherein  
" destiny has placed me or abso  
" Let the distinguished object of  
" a mother's love be that of my  
" cheerful attentions and grateful  
" esteem—let the want of warmer  
" sentiments be supplied by an  
" unremitting assiduity to please—  
" may I render happy the even-  
" ing of a husband's days, whose  
" morning and meridian of life  
" were

" more marked by disappointment  
" and imbibited by adversity."

Madame de Tourville fallded  
the Marchioness to her bosom.  
" There spoke," said she, " the spi-  
" rit of my departed friend! there  
" spoke the daughter of Henri-  
" etta de Gramont! — Go on, my  
" child, pursue the virtuous path, it  
" leads to honour and to happiness:  
" it will secure the calm joys of  
" conscious innocence in this life,  
" render serene the solemn hour  
" of death, and crown with glory  
" your transition to the bright  
" mansions of eternity!"

Tranquillity seemed now, in  
some measure, restored to the mind  
of Julia: she wiped away the traces  
of

but, though it caused her much  
of her tears, and attempted to ad-  
just her countenance with smiles to  
meet her lord.—The more she  
became acquainted with the char-  
acter of the Marquis, the more  
worthy she found it of her esteem  
and gratitude.—His heart was the  
seat of every virtue, and his actions  
daily proved him the benevolent  
friend of human nature; — he  
was, as he deserved to be, uni-  
versally beloved, honoured, and  
revered.

Let us for the present quit the  
Chateau de Soissons to follow Au-  
gustus to that of Senanges.—In  
vain did his illustrious friends at-  
tempt to sooth his sorrows; — still  
did the remembrance of his lost

Julia

Julia haunt every thought, and mingle with every idea.—They considerately suffered him, without opposition, to indulge his hopeless passion; and he passed whole days in those embowering groves where first he whispered the soft tale of love, and received, exchanged for his, the artless heart of Julia.—In vain did they paint the charms of other females who frequented the Castle—his eyes were dead to beauty's power, and his heart was coldly insensible to any attractions but those alone, which to him were lost for ever.

The Baron de Neuville resided at an elegant mansion within a short distance of the Chateau de Senanges.

Senanges—thither he had retired, upon the death of a lamented wife, to educate, in solitude, a beautiful and only daughter.

Leonora de Neuville was in the bloom of seventeen when Madame de Senanges returned from attending the nuptials of her sister:—it was then that the Baron first presented her to the Countess;—with a very lovely person was blended the natural dignity of birth, completed by a polished, though retired, education.

To the attentions of a father she was indebted for the cultivation of a natural genius, but he had left her totally ignorant of that world which he had himself voluntarily renounced;

renounced; and, unwilling to distract her innocent pleasure, he pointed not out the thorns which too often obstruct the path of life.—Thus, unprepared for dangers, her heart was elated with expected happiness,—never yet had it heaved the sigh of sorrow,—it had only beat with gaiety and animating hope!—the bloom of Hebe glowed upon her cheek,—joy dimpled round her mouth, and sparkled in her eye, chastened gently by inborn delicacy and conscious virtue.

The young Countess was charmed with her appearance, and, on an improved acquaintance, found Leonora possessed of so many engaging qualities,

qualities, that she was solicitous to cultivate her friendship. Madame de Schanges was universally adored throughout the environs of her castle; her easy affability and winning coquetry gained every heart.—The Baron, who found in the Countess an amiable pattern for the imitation of his daughter, with pleasure observed their growing intimacy; and, happy in an opportunity of introducing the darling of his heart under such desirable auspices, he accepted, very frequently, the pressing invitation of the Count and Countess.

A succession of company soon interrupted that retirement which Augustus hoped for at the Chateau

de Senanges. At first his attending friends kindly dispensed with his appearance in their social circles; and he devoted constantly those days to solitude on which the neighbouring noblesse visited ~~the~~ — <sup>the</sup> Castle.

Upon these occasions he chose for his retreat a mausoleum, which was encompassed with a thick grove of mournful yew and cypress. This awful receptacle of death, sacred to the ancestors of the illustrious house of Senanges, was situated on the highest eminence in the gardens: it commanded from one spot, where a seat, in the form of an antique sepulchre, was placed, an extensive prospect of the adjacent

adjacent country. From hence a distinct view of an obelisk, in the Marquis de Solfion's park, was discernible, though at the distance of five leagues. — It was here the unfortunate Chevalier passed his sad hours! the solemn gloom which surrounded him soothed his despair; — his soul was attuned to all its sombre horrors; and he derived even a degree of mournful consolation from the discordant notes uttered by the ill-omened choristers of this sequestered grove.

When the pale deity of night began to extend her gentle radiance over the spangled hemisphere, and to twinkle through the trembling foliage, then did this dis-

consolate and faithful lover usually quit the sacred edifice, and with reluctant steps approach the castle there, to appear less wretched. He suppressed his sorrows, that he might not interrupt the happiness of that amiable pair who so tenderly attempted to assuage his anguish. The indulgence he allowed his grief in solitude enabled him, at length, to assume more cheerfulness when he rejoined his friends; consequently they began to hope that time might reconcile him to his fate, and vanquish at length a hopeless passion.

The beauty of Leonora inspired the Countess with the most sanguine hopes that its influence might be

be effectual in banishing her father's idea from his mind; and she thought her truly worthy of such planting. Julia in the Chevalier's affection.

One day, when a public dinner was given to the Baron, and several of the surrounding nobility, the Countess entreated Monsieur de Neuville to indulge her with the company of his lovely daughter for a few weeks; he politely acquiesced, and she remained at the castle. This was the first time Lenora had experienced a separation from her father; as he bade her adieu a pearly tear descended upon his cheek, which insensibly trickled from her charming eyes, while he

imprinted his blessing on her lips ;  
but soon her little heart, elate with  
happiness, forgot the momentary  
grief, and smiled away her sorrow.

Towards the evening, Monsieur  
de Soiffons quitted the silent man-  
sions of the dead, and slowly bent  
his solitary way towards the castle,  
through a long avenue of lofty  
elms ; he descried, at a distance,  
two human forms : — he stopped,  
and would have struck down a  
winding path, but the voice of the  
**Countess** prevented him ; and he  
quickened his pace as she advanced  
with Mademoiselle de Neuville.  
Henrietta had prepared a pleasing  
surprise for the disconsolate Augustus ;  
and presented to him her fair  
companion,

companion, curious to observe the effect of her striking charms; he bowed respectfully; the timid Leonora blushed: — the moon's resplendent beams gave him a full view of her graceful elegance of mien. Her gird was spotless white, which was peculiarly adapted to a countenance of angelic innocence; they silently approached the castle; the melodious nightingale alone was vocal, it thrilled harmonious notes; her sweetly plaintive voice was a pleasing contrast to the discordant concert of moping owls, from which Augustus came: A ray of soothing satisfaction diffused itself over the heart of even the loves-lorn Soissons. The Count met them

them at the door, and accompanied them into the saloon, where supper waited.

The Countess placed her young friend opposite to Augustus, that he might have leisure to contemplate those charms she so ardently hoped might shake his unavailing constancy. He felt himself under a painful constraint; and cast on Madame de Senanges a look of gentle reproach, for having introduced him to a stranger: she smiled; and, entering into conversation with the Count and Mademoiselle de Neuville, left him at liberty to indulge his own reflections. Casting a glance now and then on Leonora, Augustus was

struck with the elegance of her figure, the symmetry of her features, and the graces of her address; but the power of beauty served only to remind him of her in whom he thought all feminine perfection centered.

Mademoiselle de Neuville beheld the Chevalier with uncommon emotion; the interesting sadness of his countenance, his air of dignity, and the affecting tone of his voice, made a deep impression on her mind: she heard his involuntary sighs, and gently echoed them, while the tear of sympathy trembled in her eye. The Chevalier perceived it; he fixed on her a look of tender gratitude; a conscious

blush illuminated her face ; she smug-  
ed it,—and the chrystral drop,  
which hovered in its sluice, stole  
down her damask cheek.

Augustus felt unusually agitated;  
the generous compassion of this  
lovely creature pained and delight-  
ed him ; he attempted to speak —  
his tongue refused him utterance ;  
he reached a basket of nectarines,  
and tremblingly presented them.  
She advanced her snowy hand,  
blushed again, and selected one.  
This silent, yet eloquent scene, did  
not escape the observation of  
Monsieur and Madame de Senan-  
ges, but they affected not to see it.  
The Count arose, and relieved her  
distress, by offering a harp to Leo-

*child*

*M*

*nora :*

nora : she accepted it ; her taper fingers touched the strings, and she appeared with a thousand additional graces.

Monsieur de Soissons retired to his chamber, when the hour of separation came : — there Julia's loved idea again assailed his imagination ; it effaced the form of Leonora, whose presence had interested him, but whose absence banished her from his thoughts. During the following week a cessation from company stopped the progress of his daily visits to the mausoleum : in complaisance to the Count and Countess, he consented to be less solitary ; but he sometimes stole away from their attentions to reflect

slept at liberty upon his adored Marchioness. The gentle Leonora dearly paid for these frequent opportunities of acquainting herself with the virtues of the Chevalier : the more she observed the expressive dejection of his countenance, the more he became to her an interesting object. She secretly lamented his private sorrows, till, infected by his sadness, she began to lose that agreeable vivacity, that charming gaiety, which had before distinguished her. She became silent and pensive when absent from Augustus, and in his presence the tenderest inquietude was visible in her eyes.

The

The Countess, who discovered this sudden alteration in her fair charge, though she did not totally despair of the success of her scheme, yet thought it prudent to acquaint her of the situation of the Chevalier's heart, by informing her that the disappointment of his hopes, in a very tender attachment, had occasioned the apparent dejection of his spirits.— "Ah!" exclaimed Leonora, with emotion, "exists  
 "there the heart capable of ingratiude and falsehood to the Chevalier de Soissons?" The penetrating glance that the Countess cast upon her at this moment brought a conscious glow into her artless face, and her embarrassment  
 was

was happily relieved by the entrance of Monsieur de Senanges, which gave her an opportunity to retire to her apartment.

In the evening Augustus and Leonora happening to be left together, the latter, by every winning attention, endeavoured to amuse Monsieur de Soissons. After having played at his request upon the harp, she placed it with inimitable grace in his hands; and, looking at him with an enchanting smile, she told him that he must now, in return for her compliance, try his skill upon the instrument. He gazed at her with tender earnestness, but seemed disinclined to accept the proposal till she repeated her

her entreaties ; he then reluctantly obeyed, and his fingers, inspired by his sentiments, expressed the plaintive sounds of a despairing lover bewailing unrequited love. The pathetic notes were too much for the gentle heart of Leonora ! her eyes, and those of Augustus, accidentally met ; they were both suffused with tears ! never did she appear so interestingly lovely as at this moment : he felt all the irresistible force of beauty ; he threw aside the harp. — “ Ah, Madam,” exclaimed he, “ is it possible that “ I can have caused those precious “ tears ! can the unfortunate Soif-“ sons have occasioned a moment’s “ pain in that gentle bosom which  
“ should

“ Should ever be the abode of hap-  
“ piness and peace!” Lma. Lovell.  
Her tongue was silent, but her  
grief was audible: he sunk at her  
feet; and, tenderly taking one of  
her hands, while the other con-  
cealed with a handkerchief her  
blushing cheek — “ Too generous  
“ Leonora!” continued he, “ born  
“ to wretchedness myself, let not  
“ my griefs cast a gloom over thy  
“ brighter prospects. No — smiling  
“ happiness shall bless thy spring,  
“ and crown thy close of life —  
“ propitious love shall weave for  
“ thee its fairest chaplets, and thy  
“ heart shall be the sweet reward of  
“ constancy and truth.” — “ Never,  
“ never!” uttered the weeping  
Leonora,

Leonora, gently withdrawing her hand—“ while thou art wretched,  
“ this feeling heart must be insensi-  
“ ble to joy,” and bent still on han-

At that instant the Countess en-  
tered, with a countenance expres-  
sive of pleasing surprise at a scene  
so unexpected. The last words of  
Mademoiselle de Neuville resound-  
ed in her ear: the Chevalier was  
advancing to the Countess with an  
embarrassed air, when a servant  
appeared, who delivered her a mes-  
sage. This gave Leonora an op-  
portunity to recover from her emo-  
tion, by withdrawing to a window;  
and Monsieur de Senanges joining  
them, the conversation became ge-  
neral. Henrietta minutely scru-  
tinized

tinized the looks of Auguste and Leonora : they both seethed and mated with the tenderest sensibility ; and she flattered herself, from the conversation she had interrupted on entering, that a reciprocal affection was kindling in their hearts. She informed the Count of her pleasing conjectures ; but they mutually agreed not to precipitate an ecclaircissement till time gave them a stronger confirmation of their hopes.

The Marquis de Soissons grew every day more tenderly attached to his incomparable wife ; but he observed, with secret regret, an air of melancholy languor frequently diffuse itself over her countenance

itenance, her assumed gaiety would sometimes forsake her, and an inadvertent sigh escape her bosom. He would then cast upon her a look of fond inquietude. Whenever the Marchioness perceived these emotions in her lord, she instantly dispelled the involuntary gloom, and, with her smiles, becalmed his tender fears. Anxious to procure her amusements, he was constantly proposing them; but she, with her usual gentleness, assured him that his society was her only wish.

The Marquis one day found her dissolved in tears, while she held in her hand a letter from Madame de Senanges: he earnestly inquired the cause of her concern, fearful

that some unpleasing event had happened at Senanges : she presented him the paper; and, brightening into smiles, informed him that the Count and Countess were in perfect health, and that he must attribute the weakness she betrayed to the affection she bore a sister, from whom, since her birth, she had never before been separated.—

“ Your tenderness for Henrietta, my dearest Julia,” replied he, “ far from meriting the name of weakness, is one of the innumerable graces of your character—it is long since you have seen that amiable sister; I will myself attend you to the Castle de Senanges: we will depart immediately:

“ I anti-

" I anticipate the agreeable surprise  
 " and mutual rapture of your meeting,  
 " and fly instantly to give orders for our expedition." — With  
 these words he hastily quitted the Marchioness, leaving her in a very  
 painful dilemma.

Her inclinations strongly impelled her to visit Henrietta, but her prudence was alarmed by the dread of meeting, at Senanges, an object whom she was but too conscious she could not behold with indifference.

She perused, with trembling anxiety, her letter; but found no mention of the Chevalier. From this circumstance she flattered herself with the hope that he was

O 2 returned

returned to Paris; and, as she could oppose no reasonable objection to her lord's kind design, she instantly prepared for an excursion; which, but for one uncertainty, would have yielded her the truest pleasure.—She confided these delicate scruples in the bosom of her faithful Tourville; who, sensible that there was no remedy in the present circumstance, encouraged her to resign every fear in the heartfelt joy of embracing a beloved sister.

In a couple of hours the equipages were in readiness; and they set forward for the Château de Senanges time enough to arrive there before the close of evening.—As they approached the spot, which

had

had once been the scene of an unfortunate exchange of hearts, had passed the grove which had so often witnessed the mutual vows of unpropitious love, the Marchioness could not conceal her agitations; her colour varied, and she with difficulty withheld her tears.—Her attentive lord perceived the tremors of her mind, and tenderly endeavoured to fortify her against the overflowing of a sensibility which, he feared, might be prejudicial to her delicate frame.—At length they arrived—Julia was prepared to fly into her sister's arms; but, ardently as she wished the interview, she dreaded it; and felt a relief from the information they received on en-  
darily.

tering, that the Count and Countess had dined out that day, and were not yet returned.

The Chevalier had not been named; a circumstance which confirmed Madame de Soissons in her hopes that he was no longer a guest at Senanges. This flattering conjecture in some measure restored her serenity: they were shewn into the library, and presented with refreshments, which were acceptable after a journey immoderately hot. The Marquis began to amuse himself by looking over some capital drawings which were spread on a table: Madame de Tourville was examining a full-length picture of the Countess,

which

which had lately been placed in this apartment; while the Marchioness looked fearfully round the room to see if she could discover any traces of Augustus. She rejoiced at discerning none; and, advancing towards a glass door, which was thrown open to admit the fragrance of the various flowers which luxuriantly surrounded it, she was tempted to stray upon the verdant lawn. — All was calm; the air breathed odoriferous gales; her feet, with involuntary motion, led her to a walk she had often trod with her loved Soissons; the meeting beech had formed a natural canopy above; the blooming rose and twining woodbine, in wild profusion, bent

O 4                    their

their branches to scatter at her feet  
their mingled sweets.

As she entered the grove she cast  
her eyes towards the apartment  
which had once contained the Che-  
valier. The windows were open,  
and the lustrous curtains gently  
waved; she heaved a sigh, and pro-  
ceeded.

The plaintive Philomela had be-  
gan her evening melody—with slow  
and penitive air the beauteous Julia  
moved—each seat, each shrub, re-  
called a dear idea to her mind! She  
viewed, with painful pleasure,  
every memento of her former love.  
Here glowed the amaranthus, there  
blushed the gay carnation, whose  
opening sweets and budding in-  
fancy

fancy she had watched and waited  
in their early spring.

Wrapt in this sad but soothing contemplation, she advanced, till a prostrate bench, which some boisterous summer storm had over-set, obstructed her passage. An opening path appearing through the trees, she followed it insensibly; its winding turns led imperceptibly up an easy ascent; and she was roused from her reverie, by finding herself conducted to the mausoleum. This edifice, though she had often passed, she never yet had entered: it was accustomed to be kept constantly shut—the door now stood a-jar; and, though the gloom of the surrounding evergreens cast

a solemn

a solemn shade, and inspired Julia with a secret terror; yet she felt herself impelled to approach the drear abode. The noise she made on entering alarmed her; the door grated on its rusty hinges; and, echoing through the vaulted arches, disturbed that awful stillness which increased the sepulchral horrors of this region of mortality!

The Marchioness trembled as she fearfully surveyed the dome, whose monumental niches contained the departed ancestry of Senanges. She had scarcely power to return towards the door, with an intent to quit it, when the solemn tones of an organ, from the adjoining chapel, struck her ear; — they ceased;

she

she again made an effort to depart; but her terrors were yet heightened by the slow tread of advancing steps. She became immovable; she uttered a faint scream;—a form appeared—it perceived her fears—it flew to support her in its arms—it sunk with her on the marble pavement. What were the emotions of Augustus, when he found his Julia clasped in his embrace! he was for an instant lost in ecstasy; but was soon roused to a fatal sensibility — her beauteous eyes were closed; a death-like pallor had overspread her face, and she appeared a fit inhabitant of this awful dwelling! In an agony of grief he called upon her name;—“Julia!—Julia!—Julia!—” “Oh

"Oh Julia, adorable Julia!"—he cried—"and is it thus we meet again? shall the grim king of terrors, who here keeps his fatal court, prey on a form so lovely?" "Oh, hear me Julia! hear thy once loved Augustus—it is his voice recalls thee to life!"—She still continued motionless.—The Chevalier was in despair; but, recollecting there was some water lodged in a cistern near the building, he gently rested the Marchioness on the steps that led to the chapel, and, having hastily reached a velvet cushion from the altar, and placed it to support her head, he flew to fill his hat with water. He sprinkled her face, and chafed her temples—his cares succeeded—

Julia

Julia breathed a sigh, and, opening her eyes, she fixed them on the Chevalier — he removed to a respectful distance — she gazed with astonishment around — then, suddenly recollecting every circumstance, she began to account for her situation : — but, endeavouring to recover her accustomed courage, she attempted to rise — he offered his trembling hand ; she timidly accepted it to sustain her feeble frame — he presumed to lift it to his lips, and she withdrew it with an air of displeasure.— “ Ah, “ Madam,” said the Chevalier, “ nor cruel duty, nor rigid virtue, “ can deny this poor reward for “ faithful love ! refuse not the un-  
fortunate ”

“ fortunate Augustus one sight  
 “ the memory of that tender pa-  
 “ sion which you in happier days  
 “ permitted.” — sonnich ludewig

“ Alas !” replied the Marchio-  
 ness, “ all former sentiments must  
 “ be forgotten ; we must meet no  
 “ more, or meet as friends alone ;  
 “ regard me as the wife of the most  
 “ amiable of fathers—I ever shall  
 “ esteem you as his son. Honour,  
 “ duty, rectitude, and virtue, will  
 “ assist you to subdue every idea  
 “ inconsistent with your own cha-  
 “ racter, and the dignity of mine.”  
 With these words she moved to-  
 wards the door, but the Chevalier  
 intercepted her departure, by sink-  
 ing on his knees.—“ Oh irresistible  
 “ enchantress !”

"enchantress!" exclaimed he; "I  
 "yield to your cruel, dread, yet  
 "just decree! supplicating only a  
 "short interval of condescending  
 "pity for the man who, in re-  
 "signing you, has bid a last fare-  
 "well to peace of mind."—"Alas!  
 "Chevalier," interrupted the Mar-  
 chioness, "if the honour of Julia  
 "is yet dear to you, detain her  
 "not; my erring steps have led  
 "me hither—guide me to the  
 "Castle, I shall be sought for;  
 "and, unpremeditated as was this  
 "interview, my fame may suffer."

"Heaven forbid!" replied Augustus, starting up; "No, most  
 "adorable of women! never shall  
 "my fatal love reflect dishonour

"on

"on a name so spotless; rather  
 "will I impose upon myself etern-  
 "al banishment. When I have  
 "directed your return through  
 "yon devious path, I will ren-  
 "myself from all that is precious  
 "to my soul, and retire an exile  
 "to this drear abode of death;  
 "here to adore the sacred spot  
 "which restored your beauteous  
 "form once more to my entrap-  
 "tured sight."—"No," interrupt-  
 ed Madame de Soffans, smiling  
 and moving onwards, "you shall  
 "not indulge a project so severe;  
 "I must insist on your submission  
 "to the compliance I exact; fol-  
 "low me to the Castle; exert every  
 "effort to assume at least a cheer-  
 ful

"ful aspect, when you receive  
"the embraces of your father;  
"let my example teach you for-  
"titude."

They silently descended the hill :  
when they reached the bottom, the  
Marchioness struck out of the walk  
into the avenue which commanded  
the castle. She fixed on the Che-  
valier a look of sweet complacency;  
"Remember," said she, "my ad-  
"monitions; and let discretion rule  
"your conduct." Uttering these  
words she, in a moment, vanished  
from his sight.

He remained motionless ; his  
eyes turned to the leafy fence which  
she had penetrated, and which yet  
bore the soft impression of her form.

The lovely vision still dwelt on his imagination, and he was absorbed in her sweet idea, till the recollected hope of seeing her again in reality urged his departure to the Castle, whither she had winged her flight.

Before the Marchioness reached the house, she was met by the Countess and Madame de Tourville, who came in search of her. The interview between the sisters was tender: Henrietta felt all happiness, and Julia became now sensible of the first ray of real satisfaction she had experienced since they parted. Monsieur de Sennuges welcomed her arrival, and presented to her Mademoiselle de Neuville.

ville, Julia, struck by the beauty of Leonora, received her with an enchanting grace. When they had been some little time assembled, the Chevalier entered; his father, who was prepared to see him, met him with open arms. During his solitary walk from the mausoleum, he had been endeavouring to arm his mind with fortitude. The delightful thoughts of being admitted again into the presence of his adored Julia, diffused through his heart a pleasure to which he had long been a stranger. He respectfully approached, and welcomed her to Senanges; she sweetly blushed, and confessed how much she owed to the Marquis, whose kind

P 2 attention

attention to her had formed so agreeable an expedition. Madame de Tourville had discovered with regret that a meeting between these unfortunate lovers was become inevitable; she tenderly felt for both, and dreaded their first interview. The sister and the friend (ignorant of the preparatory rencontre in the mausoleum) were painfully agitated at the entrance of Augustus; and were, consequently, most agreeably surprised by the air of unconcern they each assumed at the sight of each other. The Countess, and Madame de Tourville, thought this a flattering omen, regarding it as a convincing proof that their mutual endeavours had, in some degree, vanquished a successless love.

When

When the conversation became general, Julia ventured to cast her eyes upon Augustus, from whom, during their interview in the mausoleum, she had carefully averted them. She was affected by the visible change in his person ; he looked pale and languid ; and she could discover, through the disguise of temporary vivacity, the real dejection of his spirits. She found awakened sensibility arise in her bosom, and felt conscious, notwithstanding her virtuous conflicts, that Augustus was still too interesting an object. She secretly, and painfully, regretted the fatality that brought her into his dangerous presence ; and determined to guard,

with redoubled circumspection, the avenues of her heart. She had too long been accustomed to put on the semblance of ease, while her soul was absorbed in sorrow, to find it difficult even now to conceal her agitations. She had learnt to dress her face in smiles while her mind bled with anguish : gratitude, honour, prudence, demanded every effort of her resolution. Sadness, in the present circumstance, would rouse suspicions in the breast of the Marquis, and encourage reviving passion in that of him, who ought to think himself forgotten by her, both for the recovery of his happiness and the delicacy of her character. She buried therefore her disquietude

disquietude in the recesses of her bosom,—arrayed with satisfaction the exterior expression of her countenance, and, assisted by the natural sweetness of her manners, was enabled to converse with artificial gaiety.

When they sat down to supper the Chevalier placed himself next to Mademoiselle de Neuville; and though he now and then ventured to direct a glance towards the Marchioness, yet he wisely judged that he could better conceal the sentiments he entertained for her, by addressing his conversation to Leonora; and that lovely girl, elated by his attentions, derived from them the most flattering hopes.

The Marchioness, who sat opposite, could not avoid observing how much the Chevalier seemed engrossed by Leonora, and was herself inclined to believe this young beauty would become her rival. Her virtue approved the transfer of his affections ; but her heart felt a conscious pang. When she recollect ed his emotions in the mausoleum, she fancied him as much her slave as ever ; but, when she considered the graces of Leonora, she thought them sufficiently powerful to shake the constancy of hopeless love.

Augustus retired to his apartment with an unusual serenity : the reflection that the idol of his soul  
was

was contained under the same roof inspired his mind with a soothing satisfaction—to behold her!—to hear her melodious voice!—and to indulge the transporting idea that she might still honour him with a place in her heart—were sensations too delightful to be resisted. But he knew the rigid delicacy of her conduct; and, while it exalted her in his opinion, it determined him to shun, with caution, every word or look which could offend her virtuous reserve. These considerations occasioned him to over-act his part; and, while he feared to betray his unfortunate attachment, and to incur the displeasure of the Marchioness, he inadvertently increased

creased the tenderness of Leonora, and flattered her into the belief that she was become the object of his affections.

The next morning, when the Marchioness rose from her toilet, she threw open her dressing-room window, and perceived the Chevalier and Mademoiselle de Neuville returning together from the shady grove which had milled her steps the preceding evening.

They seemed engaged in a conversation which appeared interesting. Augustus was forming a bouquet of fresh-gathered flowers, from a basket which hung upon the arm of his fair companion. He selected the most beautiful; and, binding them together

together with a knot of ribbands, which she untied from the streamers of her hat, he presented it to her. Leonora received it with a captivating smile, and placed it in her bosom.

The Marchioness turned from the window, where she had continued riveted : she felt an involuntary tear stray down her cheek, but wiped it with disdain; and, calling to her aid the conscious dignity of female pride, she armed herself with an appearance of indifference, very remote from her heart. She descended into the gallery, where breakfast waited her arrival. When the rest of the party were assembled, the Chevalier

Lier and Mademoiselle de Neuville entered: they paid their compliments to the Marchioness; she received them coldly; and the nosegay attracting her eyes, she darted a look of contempt upon the innocent Leonora. She was conscious of her weakness, and secretly reproached it: the better to repress her agitations, she affected an uncommon vivacity, which charmed the Marquis, and diffused an universal gaiety through the circle.

Augustus found an opportunity of gazing frequently upon his lovely mother unperceived: she deigned not to bestow one glance on him, but studiously avoided encountering his eyes: he thought her more beautiful

beautiful than ever, and found a new fascination in every heightened charm.—When the morning repast was ended, Madame de Senanges proposed to drive the Marchioness through the gardens in her cabriole; she assented, and each sister was equally happy to obtain an hour's uninterrupted tête à tête.

Julia took this opportunity of confiding with her Henrietta the history of the Duchess de Gramont; of the affecting events of which she was ignorant. She added likewise an account of the strange fatality which had united her to the Marquis. They mutually lamented their early loss, and paid the tributary tear of sympathy to the

the memory of a beloved and unfortunate mother.

The subject of Julia's disappointed hopes in her relinquished engagement with the too amiable Augustus was purposely waved; but the Countess judiciously hinted, by way of preparation for an event she ardently wished, that Mademoiselle de Neuville was obviously sensible of the Chevalier's merits, and that he appeared touched with a gratitude which promised warmer sentiments.

The Marchioness felt conscious of a blush upon her cheek, and endeavoured to suppress the rising sigh. She artfully, however, evaded entering into this new scheme, by enlarging

enlarging upon the virtues of the Marquis, to whose exalted character she did ample justice.—Henrietta was delighted to find her Julia so apparently resigned to her destiny, and tenderly congratulated her upon the prospect of tranquil happiness, which seemed to promise her more lasting pleasures than even an union of reciprocal affections could ensure.

Again the bosom of Julia heaved a gentle sigh; but the intruding tear, which would have betrayed a yet unvanquished passion, was unobserved by Henrietta.—A select circle of company were expected to dine that day at the castle; and the Chevalier, who now no longer sought

fought for the solitude of the mausoleum, prepared to appear, for the first time, before the Baron de Neuville.

The Marchioness took unusual pains to decorate her charms by every studied ornament of dress. The pangs of jealousy were new to her: they inspired her with an emulation to eclipse a rival who had robbed her of the heart she had vainly thought her own. She secretly accused her lover of an inconstancy, of which she felt herself incapable.

When she had sacrificed as much time as she thought due to her new-born vanity, she met her rival with an exulting air. 'Leonora, armed

armed for conquest, appeared but too lovely! each look was animated with pleasure, and the laughing graces triumphed in her eyes; — her attire was elegantly simple, and set off, with becoming advantage, the delicate proportion of her figure, and the captivating innocence of her aspect. When Augustus entered, Julia attracted every sense: her charms, more dazzling than the jewels which adorned her, shone with redoubled radiance.

He flew for refuge to Leonora: she smiled with insinuating sweetness, and fixed him near her. His visible attentions were flattering to her vanity and her love: she endeavoured to suit his humour on every

occasion : it was even become natural to her to feel her spirits in union with his : every emotion of a heart overflowing with sensibility varied in her features : gaiety was their predominant expression. But a sigh, a look, from the Chevalier, could in a moment melt them into tenderness.

The Marchioness could not but observe (what was indeed sufficiently apparent to all) that Augustus and Leonora were totally engrossed by each other : her pride was mortified, her love was wounded ; but she roused her inborn dignity to aid her in supporting his inconstancy with indifference. As she was moving down the room, to pay her

her compliments to some of the company, her robe accidentally caught in the Chevalier's buckle: he turned hastily round to disengage it; and, approaching her to apologize, in a low and tremulous voice,—“ May I hope, Madam,” said he, “ that the cautious conduct I now observe is such as your scrupulous delicacy approves?”—“ I am happy, Sir, to find,” replied the Marchioness with a haughty air, “ the task I imposed less difficult than I imagined; but Mademoiselle de Neuville’s attractions are, it must be confessed, irresistibly powerful.” With these words she moved from him,

him, ten thousand fires darting from his expressive eyes.

The Chevalier was at a loss to interpret this address, or to account for the hauteur with which it was pronounced ; but his diffidence inclined him to suppose he had offended her by the presumption of touching upon a subject she had prohibited ; and he thought redoubled attentions to Leonora would mitigate her displeasure.

The Marquis and the Baron de Neuville renewed that day an acquaintance commenced in the early period of their lives, having served together in several campaigns. They complimented each other upon their children : the Baron approved

approved the Chevalier's figure and address : the Marquis extolled the graces of Leonora ; and from that period a reciprocal idea of cementing an union between their families took place in the heart of each parent.

The discomposure of the Marchioness, when she reflected upon the source from whence it sprung, felt a considerable increase. She repented the severity with which she had answered the Chevalier, and reproached those sentiments which now appeared unworthy of her. When retired to her closet she called herself to a severe account. A weak unpardonable jealousy had for some moments obscured the

virtues of her heart; but its native rectitude quickly restored each noble, generous sentiment. Conscious how much her own honour was concerned in the conquest of the Chevalier's passion, she began to view, in a very different light, his conduct to Leonora; regarding it as a proof of the most meritorious resolution, and of the respect he bore to her.—Ever capable of subduing an impulse which corresponded not with her exalted ideas of virtue, she became generous enough to wish the gentle Leonora's love rewarded by the return of those affections which had been once so dear to her. — Disarmed from the slightest remains of envy,

Julia

Julia returned to the company adorned with the artless smile and unaffected ease which derives its source from conscious innocence and native honour: she approached Augustus and Leonora, who were conversing at a window; and remarked to them the beauty of some fine music, which was then performing, without betraying the least emotion. Her fair rival seemed mortified at the interruption: the Marchioness was sensible of her embarrassment; she gazed a moment, silently confessed the influence of her charms, and moved to a seat by the Countess de Senanges.

Successive amusements agreeably varied the scene; and Julia, who

at the Chateau de Soiffons preferred retirement, at that of Senanges became the promoter of festivity. She found herself, when engaged in company, most secure from danger; and she yielded to dissipation to preserve her more effectually from the converse of Augustus. The Chevalier, from the strict guard the Marchioness kept over her conduct, and the apparent tranquillity of her mind, began to believe that her sentiments in his favour were effaced: and the winning attentions she constantly paid to the Marquis confirmed him in the idea that gratitude and duty had yielded her affections to a husband so truly amiable:— he envied

not

not the happiness of such a father, but breathed the sigh of regret to the memory of that tenderness which Julia once confessed for her Augustus.

The Marquis de Soissons, upon his arrival at Senanges, had marked the dejection of Augustus : at first he conceived an opinion that his second marriage had occasioned some displeasure from interested motives; but justice to the well-known sentiments of his son, added to a more minute observation, changed his ideas. He soon discovered that love was the source of that chagrin ; yet was he far from suspecting its real object. Leonora's beauty and attractions naturally

naturally pointing her out as the charmer of his affections, he concluded, that the Chevalier's diffidence of his father's approbation, or that of the Baron de Neuville, might discourage his hopes of success, and consequently retard a proposal, upon the acceptance of which depended his future happiness. The Marquis loved Augustus too tenderly not to be solicitous to promote his wishes. He had ever been liberal in his allowance; and had reserved for him, at his death, an ample share of fortune, sufficient to authorize the offer of his hand wherever the choice of his heart directed him. He observed, therefore, with pleasure, the attention

tion of his son to Leonora; and, deceived into a belief that they were inspired by love, and that a mutual partiality subsisted in their hearts, he rejoiced at the prospect of an union so likely to be propitious. He mentioned his suspicions to the Marchioness, adding, that he judged so highly of the merits and endowments of Mademoiselle de Neuville, as to believe her worthy of Augustus. He proceeded so far as to request the Marchioness would propose to his son a marriage so eligible; and to assure him that, if Leonora was the object of his wishes, he might depend upon the sanction and concurrence of his father.

This

This was a delicate circumstance for Julia; but her prudence and resolution vanquished the secret objections of her mind, and she undertook to plead the cause of rival beauty in a heart which had once been so tenderly attached to her; and, conscious that his union with another would strengthen her resignation, and fortify her duty, she determined to leave no plea un urged that could persuade him to offer his vows to Leonora. She seized the present moment of heroic virtue to execute her arduous task, lest the soft pleadings of remembered love should intercept her great resolves, and melt her into weakness.

She

She had seen Augustus, wrapt in apparent contemplation, descend the steps into the garden : thither she followed, and traced him to the grove sacred to their former loves. He was standing fixed, with folded arms ; as she advanced, he beheld her with surprise : accustomed to see the Marchioness studiously avoid him, how was his astonishment increased when she approached : he surveyed in silent awe and admiration her beauteous form — Julia looked visibly embarrassed ; her countenance was impressed with tenderness and pity, and, while a blush animated her cheek, she thus addressed him.

“ I come, Chevalier, to require a  
“ proof

“ proof of that influence you once  
“ flattered me I had obtained over  
“ your heart.” — “ And never, ne-  
“ ver,” replied he with emotion,  
“ can that eternal empire cause—  
“ command me, Madam, and I will  
“ obey you, even at the hazard  
“ of my devoted life ! ” — A pause  
ensued : at length, suppressing a  
rising sigh, the Marchioness pro-  
ceeded. — “ It is to render that life  
“ happy, and to recompense your  
“ virtues, that I now comply with  
“ the earnest request of your re-  
“ spected father. Leonora de Neu-  
“ ville is not insensible to the  
“ merits of Augustus ; she is wor-  
“ thy of you; reward her with your  
“ heart, and with the offer of your  
“ hand :

" Hand ; complete her felicity and  
" secure your own,"

Her words died upon her tongue,  
and she ceased, while her whole  
frame was agitated by the violence  
of her efforts. " Ah, Madam,"  
returned the Chevalier in a mourn-  
ful accent, " and is it from your  
" mouth, that I am condemned to  
" hear such a proposal ! Why, cruel  
" Julia, will you aggravate my  
" wretchedness ? Is it possible the  
" man who has been once your slave  
" should have a heart to bestow  
" upon another ? — A heart irrevo-  
" cably yours ! " — " Say not irrevo-  
" cably, Chevalier," interrupted the  
Marchioness, " reflect that a blame-  
" able constancy for her who never

" can

“ can be yours is unavailing, and,  
“ if cherished, criminal ! — remem-  
“ ber the wife of your father, is eter-  
“ nally lost to you.— Turn then your  
“ eyes where blooming charms,  
“ where gentle gratitude, and guilt-  
“ less love, should lead you. — Let  
“ Leonora supplant in your affec-  
“ tions the wedded Julia, — and  
“ suffer her at least to be the witness  
“ and promoter of your happiness,  
“ —whom fate permitted not to be  
“ the reward of your constancy !—  
“ by all those vows which once uni-  
“ ted our affections — by your filial  
“ duty — let me conjure you to  
“ espouse her !” — “ I leave you,  
“ Chevalier;— weigh well my argu-  
“ ments, — may they prevail, and  
“ authorize

" authorize me to bear the happy  
 " tidings to your father; — when  
 " next we meet, let your compli-  
 " ance crown his wishes."

Intruding tears were rushing thro'  
 her eyes: — she turned precipitately  
 from him: — he made no effort to  
 detain her; but with his looks pur-  
 sued her, till the windings of the  
 grove concealed her from his view.  
 — her form had vanished, but her  
 sweet voice still sounded in his ears:  
 — he threw himself upon a seat,  
 and remained buried in thought: —  
 each accent she had uttered dwelt  
 on his imagination. Leonora ap-  
 peared to his idea, and aided her  
 petition — to receive her from the  
 hand of Julia seemed to exalt her

worth, and heighten her attraction. The artless marks Mademoiselle de Neuville had given him of her partiality, had impressed him with grateful sentiments ; and he began gradually to consider that the offer of his hand was due to the sacrifice of her affections.—Julia was lost to him for ever ! — and hope was now no more ! — In this propitious moment, Leonora, returning from the extremity of the grove, suddenly appeared, as she advanced from a winding turn. — The sight of Augustus fascinated her steps. — She marked the expression of his countenance, prepared to accost him either with the echoing sigh, or the responsive smile.—The penive Chevalier

walker started when he perceived her.—Leonora blushed, apologized for having intruded upon his meditations, and was moving onward, her eyes suffused with tears, when the Chevalier, touched by her emotion, and respectfully taking her hand, placed her by him.—The impressions of his heart were favourable to the wishes of the Marchioness. “The charming Leonora,” said Augustus, “was herself “the sweet object of my contem-“ plations. Yes, Madam, your ad-“mirable perfections, and gentle “virtues, have triumphed over a “passion the most tender! you have “known the situation of my heart;

R 2

“ you

“ you are not ignorant that it has  
“ felt for another the ardent pangs  
“ of unsuccessful love ! — if then  
“ you can deign to accept all its  
“ remaining sensibility, let the  
“ prevail on you to receive the  
“ hand of Soiffons ; and suffer me  
“ to assure you that Leonora alone  
“ could have effected this change  
“ in my affections :— permit me to  
“ request your father’s sanction,—  
“ mine has already granted his  
“ concurrence ; say, — may I not  
“ hope that gentle pity, which  
“ has so often shared and soothed  
“ my sorrows, may awaken in your  
“ bosom warmer sentiments ! ” The  
eyes of Mademoiselle de Neuville  
were timidly bent upon the ground:  
and

and, though she had flattered herself that the Chevalier regarded her with some degree of preference, yet she felt herself totally unprepared for so sudden a proposal.

At length her voice found utterance. "If," said she, "the unrivaled possession of this feeling heart can be of moment to the restoration of your happiness,—it is yours—and only yours!—Incapable of artifice; and superior to disguise, I acknowledge it not insensible to your worth;—paint then the graces and perfections of that distinguished fair, whose charms could boast the envied conquest of your first affections, that, by an imitation of her vir-

" tress, I may deserve at least the  
 " continuance of your love ! — If  
 " then parental approbation crowns  
 " your suit, receive the promised  
 " hand of Leonora." — She extend-  
 ed it with unaffected ingenuousness.  
 — Augustus tenderly pressing it to  
 his lips — " Be it mine," returned  
 he, " fairest of women, to merit by  
 " my gratitude this generous frank-  
 ness. My life shall be devot-  
 ed to your happiness : — nor  
 " let that gentle bosom fear a fu-  
 ture rival in the affections he de-  
 dicates to you.— Those charms,  
 " which could have power to sub-  
 due a first impression, must main-  
 tain a lasting empire, over my  
 " heart." —

The

The Countess, Marchioness, and Madame de Tourville, appeared at this decisive moment advancing through the grove.—Mademoiselle de Neuville rose to meet them; her new lover followed her.—Julia avoided the eyes of Augustus, but in those of Leonora sought the confirmation of her hopes:—the mingled confusion and obvious satisfaction that animated the countenance of this young beauty proved that her tête à tête with Monsieur de Soissons had been interesting. As they entered the castle, Julia loitered in the portico, under pretence of gathering a bunch of orange flowers; — the Chevalier, stepping back, seized this opportunity

tunity of uttering the following words :

“ Madam, you are obeyed,  
 “ the offered hand of Soissons is  
 “ accepted ! — The heart, alas !  
 “ which should accompany it,  
 “ was not his to give ! — But you  
 “ are every way irresistible —  
 “ even in your cruelties ; and I  
 “ submit to the chains which you  
 “ impose ! ”

The Marchioness was prevented answering, by the approach of his father, to whom Augustus gave place. As the Marquis ascended the flight of steps, she turned to him ; and though she felt an involuntary pang from the Chevalier's confession, yet, concealing her emotion,

emotion, " My Lord," said she,  
 " I have discharged the commis-  
 sion with which you deigned to  
 honour me.—Your son, happy  
 that your approbation sanctifies  
 his choice, has breathed to Ma-  
 demoiselle de Neuville accepted  
 vows ; and the concurrence of the  
 Baron alone is wanting to com-  
 plete their mutual wishes." —  
 She waited not for a reply, but  
 rushed into the hall, to conceal  
 the tears which, in defiance of all  
 her fortitude, started into her eyes.  
 —Leonora met her at the entrance;  
 but, full of the flattering declara-  
 tion she had so recently received,  
 she passed without observing her;  
 and fortunately left the Marchio-  
 ness

ness at liberty to recover her agitation before she proceeded to the saloon, where the rest of the family were assembled.

The Marquis having affectionately congratulated Augustus upon his success with Leonora, perceiving her descending into the garden, quitted him with a smile, saying that he resigned him to a more interesting companion. The amiable father now hastened to communicate to the Count and Countess the reciprocal and approved attachment of the young lovers. They expressed the share they partook in this event, and felicitated him upon the happy prospect of his son. Madame de Senanges cast a tender

a tender look upon her sister, who, addressing the Marquis, urged him, with an earnestness that did her honour, to lose no time in proposing the alliance to the Baron de Neuville.—The Count promised to attend the Marquis the succeeding morning to propose and settle the preliminary articles.—When the blushing Leonora entered with her now acknowledged lover, Madame de Soissons advanced; and, taking her affectionately by the hand, expressed, with peculiar grace and sweetness, her joy upon the occasion.—Augustus appeared visibly agitated, but exerted every effort to be gay. He did not venture to point one look at the Marchioness,

ness, — he shunned the dangerous softness of her eyes, and resolutely determined to fix all his attentions on his fair mistress.

The Baron de Neuville received with joy the proposals of the Marquis. — And, as the latter expressed an anxiety to be witness of this desired union before his return to Soissons, immediate preparations were made for the ceremony.

The day after the success of this hymeneal treaty, as Julia was pensively seated in her dressing-room, the Marquis entered:—he traversed the apartment with agitated steps, without appearing to regard her: a glow of displeasure lowered upon the

the brow which had ever till that moment been impressed with benevolence and gentleness. Unaccustomed to his frown, Julia was seized with a transient dread that some misrepresentation of her conduct, from a secret enemy, had injured her in his opinion ; but, approaching him with all the dignity of conscious innocence, and a look of ineffable sweetness, she entreated him (unless he thought her curiosity too presumptuous) to deposit in her participating bosom the evident disquietude of his. His features instantly varied to an expression of the utmost tenderness : “ Oh “ my Julia,” he replied, “ I am “ deeply wounded ; the honour of  
“ my

" my family has received a stab  
 " from him who ought to support  
 " it with his life! — my son has  
 " brought disgrace upon himself  
 " and on his father." Terror and  
 surprise spoke in the features of  
 the Marchioness, and expressed  
 themselves in the following exclama-  
 tion: " Ah, Sir, your son! — can  
 " the amiable Augustus have for-  
 " feited his title to your affection?  
 " believe it not; some cruel de-  
 " ceiver has traduced his blameless  
 " character." — " No;" returned  
 the Marquis, sighing; " it is not  
 " Augustus who causes my distress;  
 " he never gave me a momentary  
 " anxiety, but for his happiness.  
 " The Count, my elder son, (who,  
     " even

" even from his infancy, has  
" planted thorns upon my pillow)  
" forgetful of his birth, his duty,  
" and his fame, pursues the path  
" of ruin and disgrace. He has,  
" under the borrowed name of  
" love, seduced from a convent  
" the daughter of a wealthy mer-  
" chant placed there for educa-  
" tion. Her heart-broken father  
" has applied to me for vengeance,  
" or redress, with an ardour expres-  
" sive of the anguish of his mind.  
" They have hitherto escaped all  
" search, and remain concealed  
" in some sequestered spot, if yet  
" in France :—but, by heaven ! if  
" he does her not justice, by im-  
" mediate marriage, never will I  
" admit

" admit him more into my presence, nor his unworthy brother,  
" who, I am informed, was aider  
" and abettor in his guilt."

Julia felt so powerfully relieved, by the assurance that Augustus was not the object of the Marquis's resentment, that she found herself enabled to plead the cause of his offending son with some degree of success. She calmed the first emotions of his anger, entreating him not to yield to an opinion that the young Count would abandon the woman of his choice, and whose expected inheritance of large possessions might probably have been the first foundation of his attachment, since wealth was the acknowledged

Knowledged passion of his soul.  
 The Marquis was charmed with  
 her benevolent compassion for a son  
 unworthy of it, and who had treat-  
 ed them both, since their marriage,  
 with the most culpable neglect.  
 He promised, in compliance with  
 her request, to dispatch a letter  
 to the Count's hotel, (which would  
 doubtless be forwarded to the fu-  
 gitives by some secret emissary),  
 enforcing their immediate union,  
 which should then be followed by  
 parental pardon, and a cordial re-  
 ception at Soissons, whenever the  
 Count chose to present Mademoi-  
 selle de Sancerre as his bride.  
 The Marquis, with this approved  
 determination, sought Monsieur de

Senniger, to impart to him more generous propositions; and to concert measures for the discovery of their retreat. This amiable parent addressed likewise an immediate letter to the disconsolate father of the young lady, consoling him with the hopes of restoring to him soon his darling daughter, whom he would himself receive with cordiality as the wife of his son. A few days after these occurrences, the Marquis was rendered in some degree satisfied by the intelligence that the Count had publicly acknowledged his marriage with Mademoiselle de Sancerre: by a few imperious lines he notified to his father this event, adding, that he  
thought

thought himself justified in a choice unequal to his birth, from the example set him by a parent, who though in the decline of life, had been impelled by an irresistible passion, to unite himself to a woman not inferior indeed in family and rank, but of an age to render the alliance totally ill-judged.

This insolent sarcasm had its natural effect upon a generous mind. The indignity offered to himself he regarded with the contempt it merited, but the reflection cast on the Marchioness, by drawing a parallel between her and Mademoiselle de Sancerre, roused him to some sense of resentment. As that subsided, wounded sensibility succeeded;



This image shows a dark, textured surface, possibly a book cover or endpaper. The texture is characterized by vertical bands of varying shades of gray, giving it a mottled appearance. In the lower portion of the image, there are some very faint, illegible markings that appear to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. These markings are mostly obscured by the dark background but include what looks like the number '53' at the bottom center.

( 30 )

“I have now no hope of obtaining  
any thing from you, — By your  
order, I have given up all now, “that  
I might be quit of your empire.”  
“I have been induced to obtain  
myself by your means,” — “Hea-  
ven, & earth, & hell, & me, & nothing else  
but you,” — “Has ‘vouchsafed  
to hear my fervent prayers; it  
has afflicted my sincere enten-  
tions to vanquish a feebleness  
of the soul with the sacred chur-  
““cress of a wife!” — what would  
“my conscience, — o! this affliction,  
“simply, but to dislodge myself  
“to those who have known my  
“weakness, — and to him who  
“caused



" tachment strong as that of Julia  
" would have been had fate de-  
" creed our union. — Bless them  
" all-gracious Providence!" (sink-  
ing on her knees, and clasping her  
uplifted hands) " Crown them with  
" encreasing benefits! — may their  
" revolving years be winged with  
" added joys! and every halcyon  
" day be dearer than the past!"

The animation of her feelings  
had so exhausted her, that she sunk  
upon a sofa, where a soft shower of  
tears relieved her oppressed heart.

Madame de Tourville beheld,  
with admiration, the heroic virtue  
of her exalted Julia, who soon re-  
covered from her emotions, and  
appeared again restored to calm re-  
flection

slection and serene content.—A few days previous to the ceremony the Marchioness presented, at her lord's request, a set of fine jewels to Leonora, which she received with visible delight.

The Countess found her quite absorbed in contemplating these glittering ornaments: and having remarked, for some days, that her young heart seemed intoxicated with the flattering prospects that surrounded her, she took this opportunity of gently cautioning her conduct upon her approaching entrance into life.

Leonora blushed, but thanked her for so kind a mark of friend-

ship

ship with an indifference that proved it irksome and unwelcome.

Henrietta discovered, with concern, that there was a volatility in her composition which did not promise those attentions to propriety so necessary in a female character—the innocence of her mind, as yet, however untainted by the world, made her hope much from her unquestioned attachment to Augustus; and she flattered herself that the natural tenderness of her disposition would counteract the impulses of pride, and the dangerous allurements of vanity.

Mademoiselle de Neuville attended her father to his house the day preceding that fixed upon for her marriage,

marriage, and her noble friends went to accompany the Chevalier to the Baron's at the appointed hour.

Julia had avoided every opportunity of meeting the Chevalier alone, since she had prevailed upon him to offer his hand to Leonora : but, upon the nuptial morn, he surprised her by his appearance in the Countess's dressing-room, who had quitted her but a moment before to seek for the Count in the adjoining library,—he entered with a gloomy air; and, casting round his eyes, he perceived the Marchioness in a pensive attitude, reclined upon a sofa — she started — blushed — turned pale — and could not conceal the evident tumult of her mind — he fixed

fixed upon her a penetrating look—  
and a sigh issued from his bosom—  
at length, in a faltering accent, he  
broke silence with these words:

" adoring you !—but now, that the  
 " hour of captivity approaches, my  
 " fatal passion should expire !—  
 " Yet, alas, interwoven with my  
 " destiny, it can end but with my  
 " life !"—The Marchioness was  
 strongly affected — she looked un-  
 utterable woe ! and melted into tears  
 — he saw her emotion, and, sinking  
 on his knees, his anxiety to restore  
 her peace of mind brought reason  
 to his aid.—“ Pardon, pardon,”  
 cried he, “ angelic Julia, the pre-  
 sumptuous Soiffons ! — Oh hear  
 him, when he swears to wound  
 your ears no more with his un-  
 hallowed passion !—Your divine  
 example shall ensure my grati-  
 tude and constancy to the wife  
 whom

" whom you have chosen me!—  
 " farewell — when next we meet  
 " it will be at the altar—there you  
 " shall be witness to the mutual  
 " vows that unite my future destiny  
 " to Leonora ; honour and virtue  
 " shall secure my faith and sanctify  
 " the will of heaven." — He arose—  
 the Marchioness smiled approbation  
 through her tears, and had only  
 time to utter these words before the  
 Countess entered. — " Go then,  
 " Chevalier, be virtuous, and be  
 " happy! — go,—and, by your at-  
 " tachment to so amiable a bride,  
 " render yourself worthy the con-  
 " quest of her heart !"

At the appointed hour the nup-  
 tial cavalcade arrived at the Baron

de Neuville's, who welcomed them with a father's heart-felt joy. He led his blooming daughter to Augustus, assuring him that the gift he then presented was the most precious gift he could bestow. Attired by the hand of elegance, and glowing with radiant beauty, she looked enchantingly lovely. The Chevalier received the hand of Leonora with a look of respectful tenderness; and, leading her to the altar, pronounced those vows he was determined most fervently to fulfil. A superb entertainment succeeded the nuptial ceremony; the delighted Baron distinguished the day by every demonstration of joy: in the evening

the

the Marquis and Marchioness returned with the Count and Countess to Senanges, having promised the Chevalier and his fair bride to be early in the renewal of their visit. Not a day during the following week passed without this illustrious party meeting either at the Count's or Baron's, till the morning arrived which was fixed for the departure of the Marquis and Marchioness de Soissons. Henrietta and Julia separated with their usual regret; but the latter returned to her castle, better resigned to her destiny than she had quitted it; persuaded that the Chevalier was united to a woman who adored him, and who seemed formed to make

make him happy : she endeavoured to acquire from these reflections a strengthened consolation ; she attempted to efface from her heart the remembrance that he had once been her lover : alas ! she but deceived herself by an ideal conquest over an attachment which could cease alone with her existence.

END OF VOL. I.



ERRATA IN VOL.

Page	Line	
31	1	<i>for remembrance</i> read <i>remembrance</i> .
33	3	<i>insert a comma after remember,</i> and <i>delete the comma after too.</i>
80	13	<i>delete the word friend.</i>
82	1	<i>after same insert time.</i>
136	3	<i>for visible read visibly.</i>
162	6	<i>for of read in.</i>
163	10	<i>for or read nor.</i>
192	11	<i>omit the first c in ecclaircissement.</i>
192	11	<i>for gave read should give.</i>
195	7	<i>for dilemna read dilemma.</i>
203	4	<i>omit the e in immoveable.</i>
239	18	<i>omit the e in blameable.</i>

## I. JOV in ATAL'PZ

